GQ

BRITISH

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

MAY · 2018 ·

Alastair Campbell v Michael Wolff

Living with war's worst injury

By Jonathan Heaf

The return of Westworld

Your new manifesto of masculinity

Could Jacob Rees-Mogg get any worse?

DUA LIPA

One billion people can't be wrong

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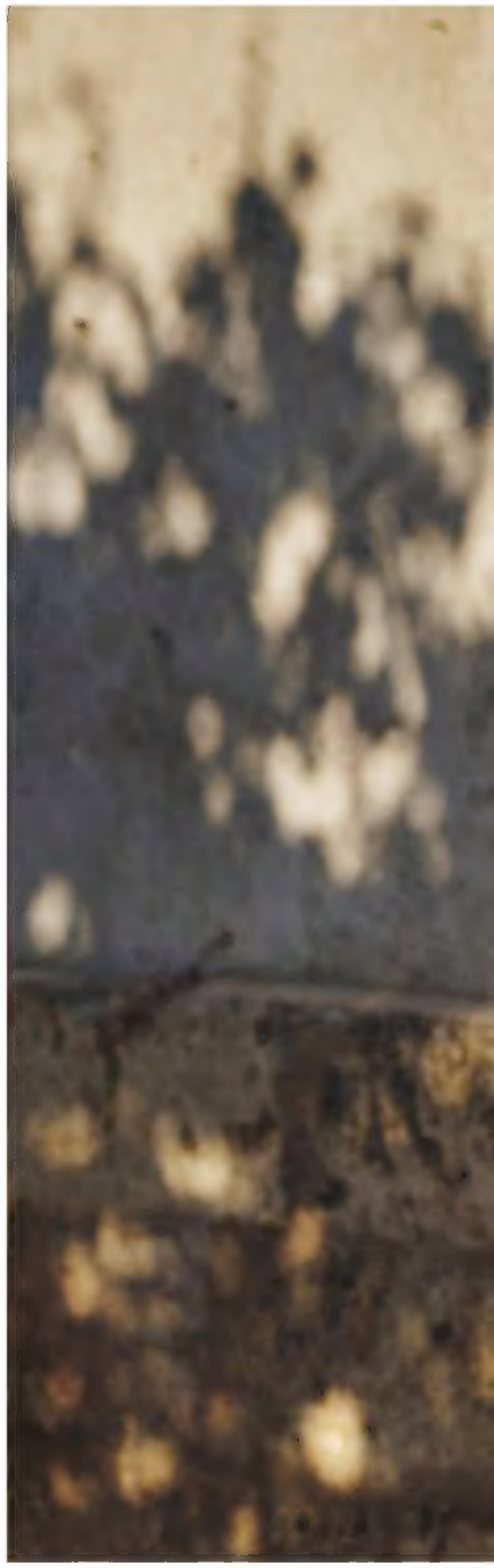

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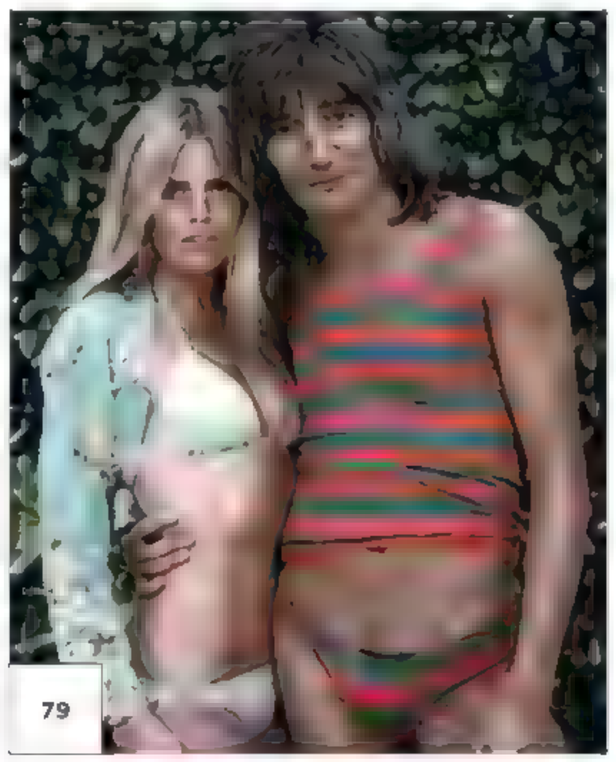

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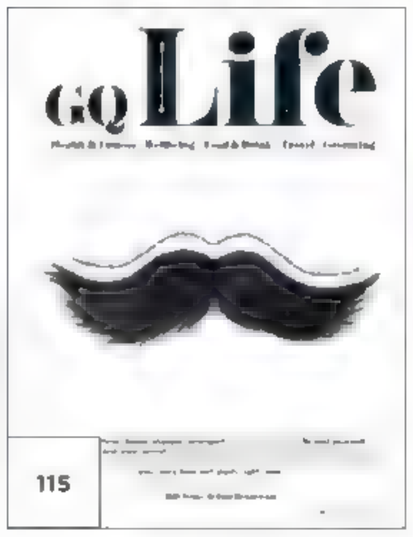

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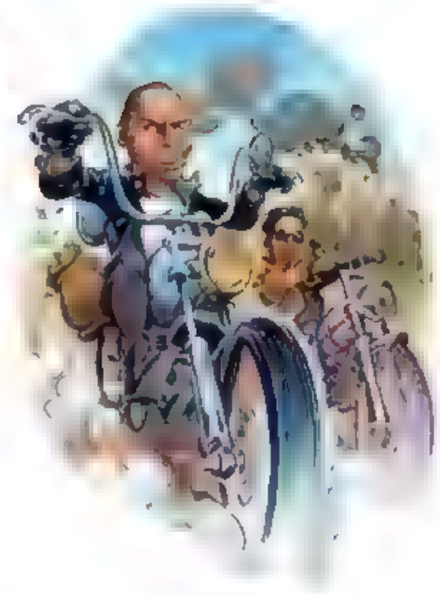

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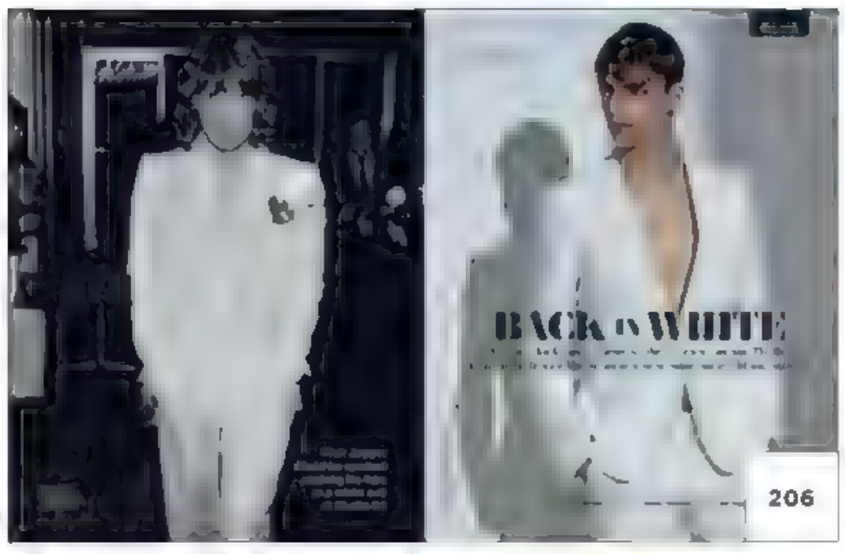

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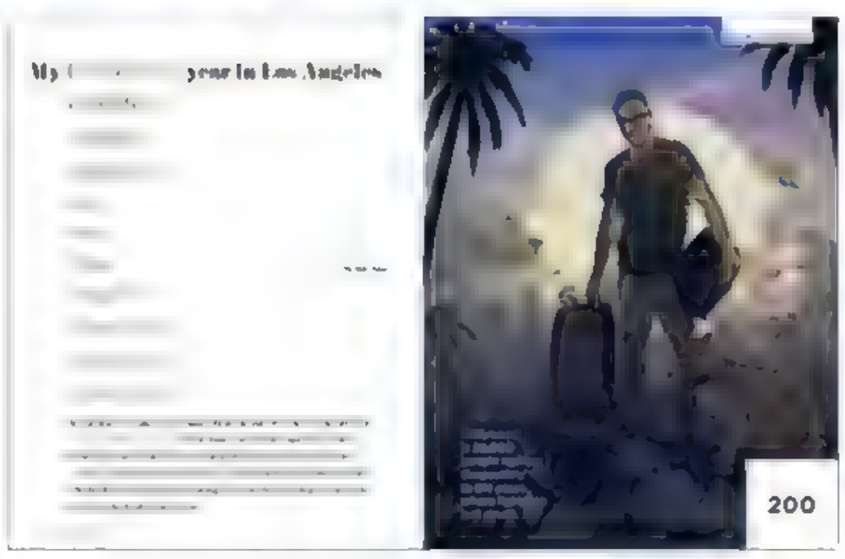

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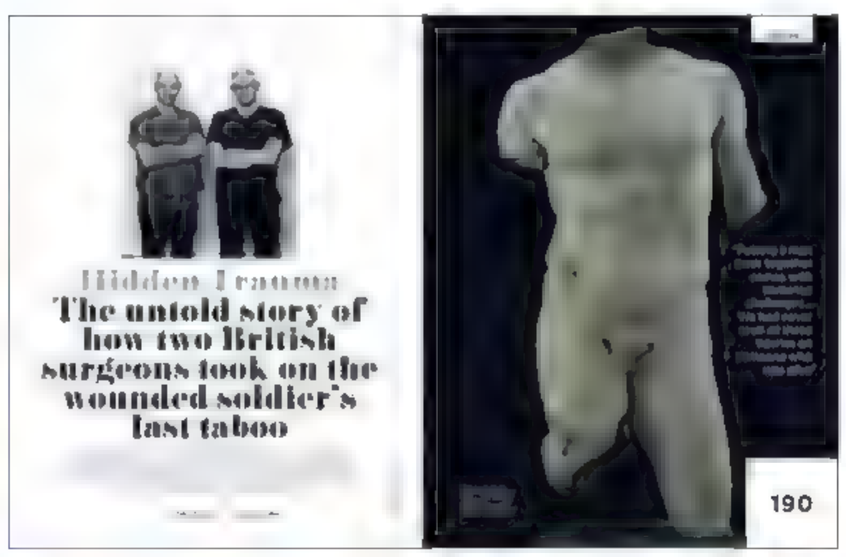

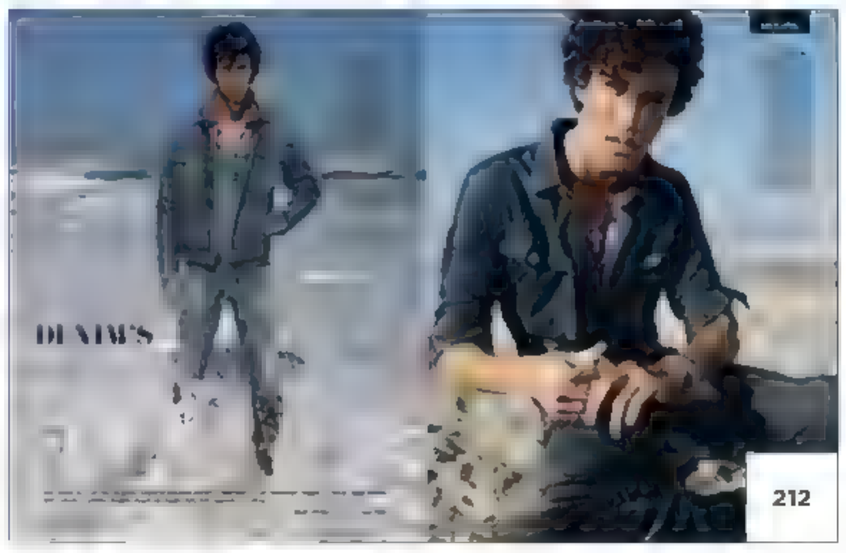

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EDITOR'S LETTER

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

Irony is that most cherished of shrouds, a mask that can be slipped on and off as swiftly as a conscience and with the ease of a Tinder swipe. In the right context – and context is always binary – it has the illusion of sophistication, the power of cool. And when it's wrong, well, when it's wrong you get someone like Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Certainly it highlights what a parlous state the Conservative Party is in when their apparent saviour is a Lord Snooty character who could have fallen, freshly bathed and smelling of pink gin, out of an Evelyn Waugh novel, a preposterous confection of a man who doesn't appear to understand just how out of step he is, not just with first- and second-time voters, but also with those who have been voting since God was a boy.

The irony of the Conservative member for North East Somerset is that he's not even a proper toff. As Stuart McGurk points out in his piece on Rees-Mogg on page 158, he has already been taken to task for this, accused of using a dressing-up box to pass himself off as landed gentry. One *Sunday Times* hack who used to shill for Condé Nast stablemate *Tatler* recalls a features meeting at the magazine in 2007, when they were compiling a list of rising "tilfs" (the "t" stood for Tories). When someone suggested Rees-Mogg, the response was immediate and unequivocal: "'What,' shrieked everyone, 'the idiotic top hat who couldn't stop mentioning he went to Eton?' It wasn't that he wasn't cool – he just wasn't posh. We couldn't possibly write about someone who came from a long line of vicars."

Rees-Mogg is the personification of everything David Cameron and Steve Hilton publicly railed against. Ironically, Cameron is far more of a toff than Rees-Mogg will ever be, but then Cameron's egalitarian "Call me Dave" air would certainly be beyond him. Call him a maverick, call him an extremist, Rees-Mogg is not what anyone would call a progressive. Perhaps you live abroad and have never heard of him and have never heard his thoughts about gay marriage, green energy and traditional forms of international aid and maybe you missed him describing Ukip as the Conservatives' "natural allies". Then you will have certainly missed his most egregious media appearance, when he popped up on *Good Morning Britain*, ITV's breakfast show, and was eviscerated by another hate figure – albeit a far more loveable one – cohost Piers Morgan. On this show Rees-Mogg said he completely opposes abortion and believes it should never be an option, even if a woman has become pregnant as a result of rape, offering his belief in the teachings of the Catholic Church as his defence. The furore that followed his appearance on the show was hardly unexpected, but then as the *Guardian*'s Owen Jones pointed out, Rees-Mogg has never pretended to be anything other than a relic of a bygone era, a man proud of the fact that, despite having six children, he has never changed a single nappy.

Not only is he not a progressive, Rees-Mogg is also an example of that new breed of political animal, the anti-centrist. In fact he's just about as far away from being a centrist as trigonometry will allow. Not that he stands alone there. The term "centrist dad" first appeared, as a pejorative, around six months ago, just before the Labour Party conference in Brighton, designed as an insult to those who couldn't connect with Labour's lurch to the left. Intended to demonise those who didn't appear to want to engage with, let alone endorse, Jeremy Corbyn's ideologies, the term very quickly became a way to pigeonhole anyone who advocated what was once called the Third Way – ie, anyone who resisted being pulled back to the margins. Centrist dads were identified as those who didn't understand why Labour would want

Jacob Rees-Mogg is a new breed of political animal: the anti-centrist

to renationalise the railways and tinker with public utilities, painted as Luddite Remainers with Little Englander leanings, "middle-aged men who cannot come to terms with the world, and politics, changing".

Columnists queued up to add their voices to the chorus of disapproval ("Are You A Centrist Dad?"; "Centrist Dad: Know Your Meme"; "Centrist Dads: Why Centrism Is In So Much Trouble Right Now"), though few felt the need to cross-reference with its more intellectual cousin, radical centrism, which is surprising given that this is the ideology espoused by the most interesting >>

For this month's cover image, photographer Mariano Vivanco shot double-Brit Award winner Dua Lipa in rocking black leather

POLO

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>> young leader in Europe, France's Emmanuel Macron (and who many so-called centrists would prefer to either Corbyn or Rees Mogg any day of the working week).

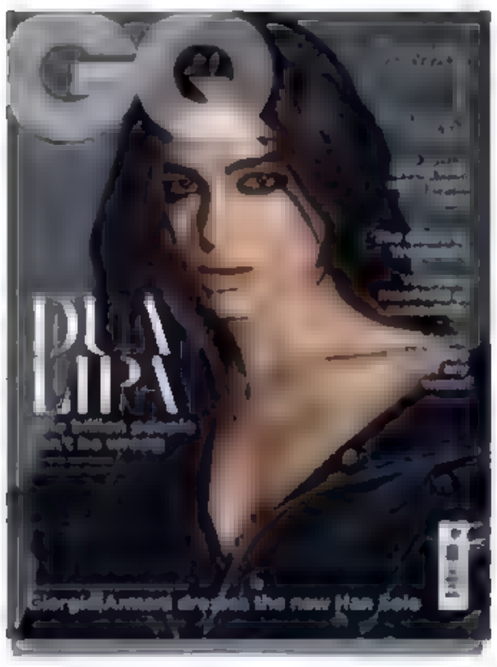
Shouldn't we all be centrists now? As *GQ* Contributing Editor Matt Kelly – who also moonlights as the editor of the highly successful newspaper the *New European* – said a few months ago on GQ.co.uk, the world could do with a Spartacus-like uprising of centrist dadism. "In times when, to borrow from Yeats (William Butler, not Ron), those of passionate intensity on both left and right seem hellbent to launch us into either a social revolution or a nationalistic uprising, then bringing people over the barricades of entrenched party dogma to actually sort out this infernal mess could be what we're missing in our national political discourse." What Kelly was espousing was a resistance to rabble-rousing and a return to good old-fashioned pragmatism, idealism without illusion, as that great centrist dad JFK once said.

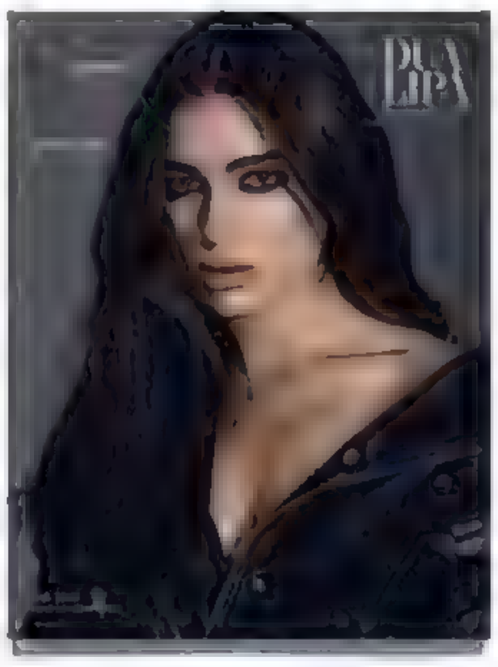
The world could do with a Spartacus uprising of centrist dadism

A couple of years ago, Sir Michael Caine – a man who has never needed to embrace irony, or indeed acknowledge it, and someone who probably wouldn't mind being called a centrist grandad – was asked how he felt about the political mood of the country and whether or not his politics had changed because of it. He said in reply that he didn't like it when leaders stood to the left of Tony Blair (the original centrist dad, according to the *Daily Telegraph)* or to the right of David Cameron, and while both men have obviously been tra duced by their legacies, their pragmatism did win five (or maybe four-and-a-half) elections.

The surge of support for populist parties and ideas across Europe – most recently in the Italian election – has caused many to believe that the centre won't hold and that political extremism (exemplified by eccentrics such as Jacob Rees-Mogg) will continue to be encouraged rather than demonised. But not everyone, though. In his interview with Michael Wolff in this issue, Alastair Campbell asks his fellow *GQ* Contributing Editor and author of the bestselling book *Fire And Fury* whether, considering Donald Trump's extraordinary elevation to the White House, the US is now doomed. What does it say about the country that Trump became president when people knew he was racist, sexist and misogynist? A contrarian to the last, Wolff actually thinks the upturn is just around the corner and that maybe his country has had enough of swivel-eyed extremists and Trump's tenure might be enough to encourage the electorate back to the centre. "I would say actually – trying to say this in a value-free way – the good guys are winning. In a way, you can see [Donald Trump] as a last stand of a demographic that is literally disappearing."

Possibly, possibly not. GQ





On the cover: Dua Lipa wears jacket by **Philipp Plein**, £3,370. plein.com. Photographed by **Mariano Vivanco**

Dylan Jones

Dylan Jones, Editor

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GQ.co.uk this month on

Dua Lipa plays 'Would you rather?'
What are the five rules every man should stick to? Would she rather live without the internet or without alcohol? Dua Lipa answers all this and more at youtube.com/britishgq.

If Maya Jama were a man...
We meet TV presenter Maya Jama to ask what she would do if she was a man for a day (clue: it involves wearing tracksuits and disproving the myth that boys don't cry).

Behind the scenes with the Brit Awards Class Of 2018
From Ed Sheeran's ice cream nose snort to Jack Whitehall's blow-up sex doll... all is revealed backstage at the Brit Awards 2018

Sit down with Michael Wolff and Alastair Campbell
Two of *GQ*'s finest minds battle it out over whether the former is correct that latter's old boss (Tony Blair) is a liar. *gq.uk/campbell*

War wounded on camera
Jonathan Heaf meets injured servicemen who have survived what was thought unsurvivable. Watch them describe their stories on camera on British *GQ*'s YouTube account.

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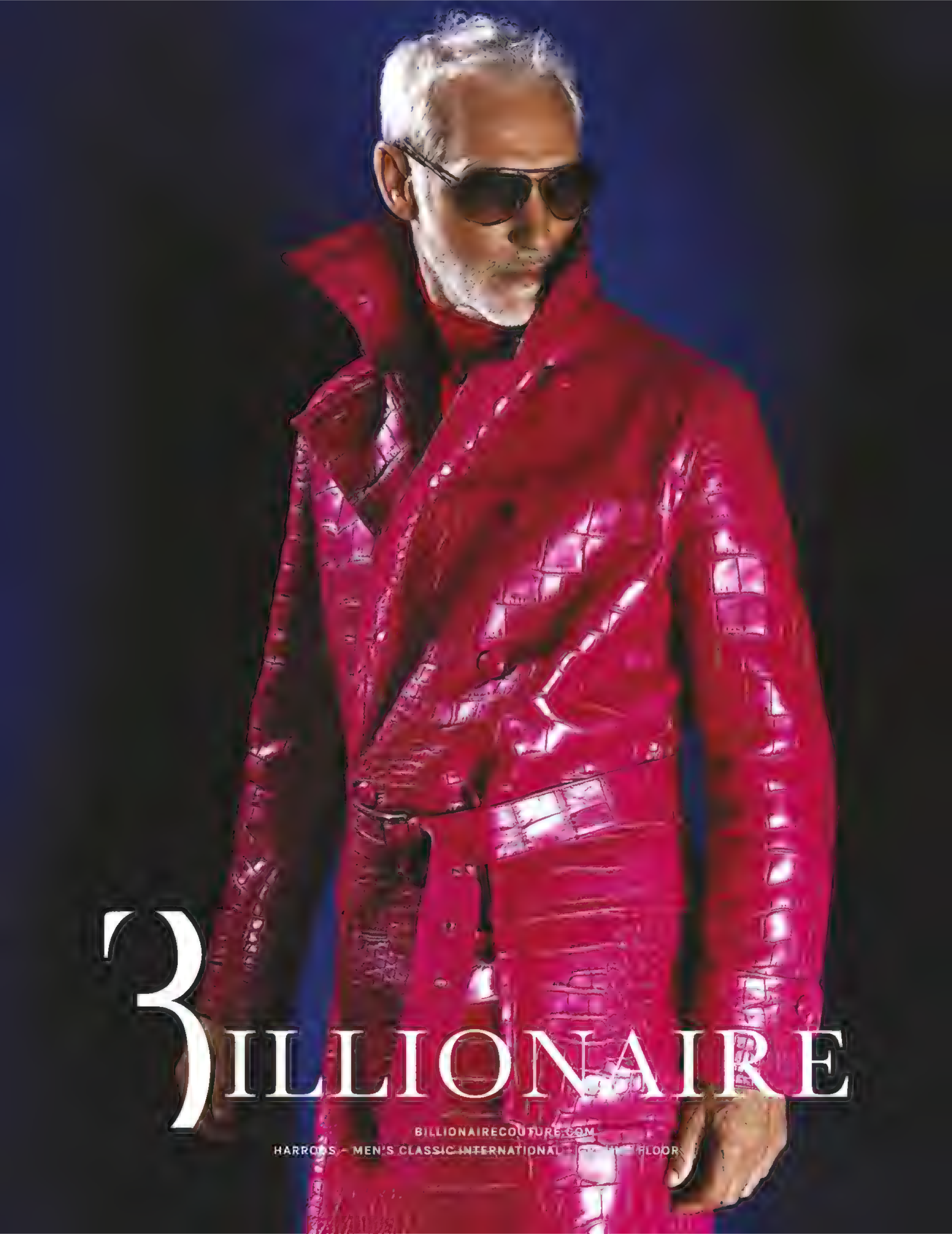
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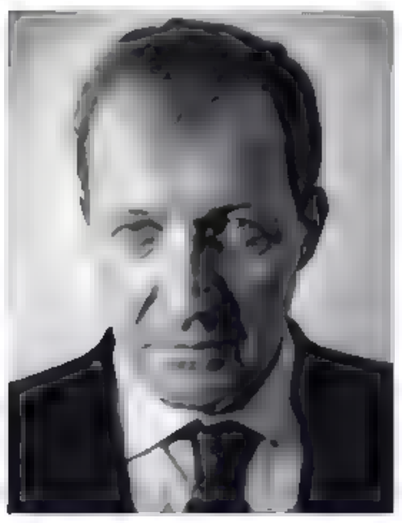
CONTRIBUTORS

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY

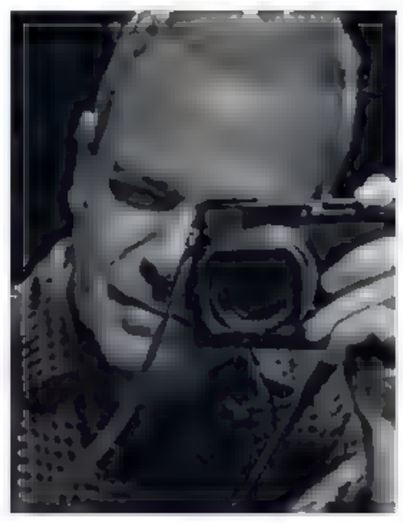
Giles DULEY

When photojournalist Giles Duley was recovering from the loss of three limbs while working in Afghanistan, he took a self-portrait. "I felt defiant. I took control of my story," says Duley, who, for Jonathan Heaf's feature "Hidden Trauma", photographed men who have lost limbs and genitals in combat. "I wanted to do these portraits in the same way, to show their strength."



Alastair CAMPBELL

When Michael Wolff published *Fire And Fury*, he became the world's most famous journalist overnight. We sent fellow *GQ* Contributing Editor Alastair Campbell to meet him. "He turned on the charm," says Campbell. "He had recently called Blair 'a liar', so perhaps he was worried that would get me fired up."



Gavin BOND

At this year's Brit Awards, photographer Gavin Bond shot the night's talent exclusively for *GQ*: Ed Sheeran and Stormzy lifting Rita Ora into the air; Foo Fighters forming a human pyramid. "We squeezed 26 stars into a 12 by 12ft room and with a little magic made it look like they were all together [*below*]," says Bond.

Owen SHEERS

For this month's Foreword, Welsh poet Owen Sheers writes about outdated masculinity. "It's time men changed," says Sheers, who quotes statistics regarding men's greater capacity for violence and crime. "As a father of two daughters, I am deeply worried about their coming into contact with this aspect of masculinity."

Danny WALLACE

In his feature for this issue, Danny Wallace recalls the adventures and encounters of the year he and his family spent in LA. "I'll never forget driving behind Pharrell on the school run," says Wallace, "as the sun hit his windscreen and I saw the unmistakable outline of his massive hat."

Bottom: Gavin Bond's exclusive Brit Awards portfolio lined up 26 of the night's major players

Anna TREVELYAN

It's been less than a year since our cover star Dua Lipa released her debut album, yet she won double at the Brits. For our interview with the star by Associate Editor Stuart McGurk, Lipa was styled in all black by Anna Trevelyan. "I wanted to do something different," says Trevelyan, "so I went for a rock vibe." **GQ**

Photographs **Gavin Bond; Giles Duley; Sela Shiloni; Mariano Vivanco**

KENT & CURWEN

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TIME IS THE ESSENCE WE ARE MADE OF

Story by

Owen Sheers

Ex machismo

Notions of femininity have been evolving for a century. Isn't it time we reform men, too?

It's time that men changed and that our definition of what it means to be a man changed with us. For centuries women have pushed for progress, challenged the prescriptions of their gender and made the world a fairer and better place in the process. For decades they have looked forward, towards what women might be and what being a woman could mean and, in doing so, have unlocked the parts of themselves previously kept from them by society. As Yuval Noah Harari points out in his book *Sapiens: A Brief History Of Humankind*, when discussing the difference between sex (a scientific category) and gender (a cultural one), a young girl today is biologically the same as her great-great-grandmother, but a totally different kind of woman. For her, possessing a womb is no longer a barrier to voting, being politically active or taking up the same employment as a man, even if earning the same pay for that job remains a work in progress.

By contrast, the idea of what it means to be a man has, ever since the agricultural revolution, remained relatively static. In 1976, American social scientists Deborah David and Robert Brannon identified four "rules" of Western masculinity: one, "No sissy stuff"; two, "Be a big wheel"; three, "Be a sturdy oak"; and four, "Give 'em hell." Despite the many other societal changes of the past 42 years, these qualities remain intact as the dominant markers of masculinity.

So why have men been so resistant to broadening the bandwidth of what it means to be a man? Well, the most common answer follows the "if it ain't broke don't fix it" argument. The baseline for what it means to be a man today is intrinsically tied up with a patriarchal society in which men have made the world to fit them so that they might most easily reap its rewards. Masculine traits are highly prized and the advantages of life easily gained for those in possession of them. So why would men want to broaden that bandwidth if it means risking these advantages? Things are working out pretty well, right? So no need to look forward and ask how we might break out of the cultural myths that define our gender. If anything, discussions on masculinity have looked backward in an attempt to recapture some elemental aspect of manhood, most commonly the attributes of the primal hunter.

The most urgent counter-argument to this arrested development revolves around violence. Looked at objectively, nearly all the harm in the world – the violence, the oppression, the harassment, the moral pollution – is caused by 50 per cent of the population, the 50 per cent with an X and Y chromosome.

Here are some figures from England and Wales. Ninety per cent of violent crime is committed by men. Ninety-five per cent of prison inmates are men. Ninety-eight per cent of sexual offences are committed by men. Forty-five per cent of women have experienced domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking at the hands of men. In 2013, opendemocracy.com estimated the cost of men's overrepresentation in UK crime to be around £30 billion a year. In the US, a recent survey asked teenage boys and girls what their greatest fear was. The girls' most common answer was being raped, assaulted or killed. For the boys, it was being the subject of ridicule.

A girl's most common fear is rape. For boys, it's being ridiculed

If these statistics were attached to any other demographic there would be an outcry and calls for action. Some have tried. In 2015, President Jimmy Carter used his TED Talk to announce that, after his years of visiting nearly every country on the globe, the mistreatment of women at the hands of men was, in his opinion, the No1 human rights abuse on the planet. On the whole, however, national or international movements to address the root causes of violent masculinity have been few and far between. As a man I'm ashamed of this and, as a father of two daughters, I'm deeply worried about my girls' exposure to this aspect of masculinity. As far as I'm concerned, no other reasons are needed to reform our ideas of masculinity, but just in case further persuasion is required let's look at how current ideas of masculinity are working out for men.

On the subject of violence, it's worth noting that as well as being a predominantly male disease, men are also its most common victim. In England and Wales, 80 per cent of victims of violent attack are men, while 85 per cent of suicides are also committed by men, making death by their own hand the single biggest killer of males under 45. That in itself is a canary in the mine. Beyond the issue of violence and despite living >>

>> in a system meant to be advantageous to men – and in terms of wages, opportunity, power and authority it is – compared to women, men fare badly in terms of education, wellbeing and mental health.

Eighty per cent of rough sleepers are men, while boys are on average three times more likely to be excluded from school and four times more likely to suffer with behavioural or emotional difficulties. The traditional role of the male provider, which brings with it long hours in the office and short hours with the family, tends to result in men suffering disproportionately from loneliness and having fewer close friends than women. It has also led to an elision of identity and employment, meaning as a consequence those same identities are easily shaken when that employment goes south. Similarly, men fare worse in the wake of marital breakdown, the culture of emotional reticence leaving them ill-equipped to cope with the psychological turmoil of separation.

At the root of these issues is a lack of options – a narrow bandwidth. If a man loses power, status, authority, certainty, all of which he's been told is what makes him *him*, what does he fall back on? An alternative is what he needs, another way to be both himself and a man, but if his emotional learning has been neglected, if he's been raised in a culture where communication skills are seen as a feminine trait and aggression equated with competence, then that alternative path often remains elusive.

So, if an outdated vision of masculinity is harming all of us, men and women alike, what might we do to upgrade it? How might we move beyond the myths of a gender created in an age not our own? Well, to start with, have the conversation, most importantly in schools, among the boys and girls who will be the men and women of the future. But also everywhere else – the media, within families, in pubs, in public debates. Let people see the problem and discuss it. We don't have to start from scratch either, but can take a lead from groups already in existence, such as the British organisation Great Men or Men Can Stop Rape in the US.

The most important cultural movement that has to happen is one of absolute equality in every sphere of our lives, at home, at work, across society. If boys see and experience the assumed male superiority of a patriarchy then we can't even get out of the starting blocks in terms of forming a new vision of masculinity. If men are perceived as dominant then along with that perception comes a shopping list of other constrictive traits – being the provider, power, authority, sexism. As the anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Every time we liberate a woman we liberate a man,"

If we can put men on the moon, we can make parenting a shared role

and I'd say the opposite is true as well. Men need to be allowed to see that equality isn't a zero-sum game. It isn't a seesaw, with one side going down as the other goes up, but a balance, holding both sides in buoyant space, alive with possibility.

Traditionally the biggest obstacle to equality has been children. When children come along, men and women become father and mother, and with those roles comes a crystallisation of the prescribed gender traits. But that doesn't have to be the case. If we can put a man on the moon, I'm sure we can have a crack at making parenting a shared gender role. The introduction of subsidised universal childcare for all preschool children and equal paid parental leave would do a lot to encourage fatherly involvement as the norm, mostly by enabling the division of care to become a family decision, not a societal one. For this to happen, men not only need to be invited to take their leave or adopt flexible working hours, but expected to do so.

How can we ensure a shift comes about? Well, by changing the culture of work, for a start, but also by stressing the immediate benefits. If done correctly, it's a win-win. Children experience men in a caring role, creating new associations with masculinity, while – and as has been proved in the Nordic countries, where this is already happening – men are happier, more socially connected and emotionally stable if they are able to provide for their children, not just in the role of breadwinner, but with time and love.

One of the most powerful drivers of prescribed gender boundaries is the idea that certain traits belong to one sex or the other. For this reason, the degendering of personality traits has the potential to be one of the most successful methods in trying to achieve an environment of equality. It will also, I suspect, be one of the most resistant areas of change, partly because all of us, every day, perpetuate these ideas, often without even noticing. So how about, to get us going, we look at expanding on the traits associated with men instead? For example, "to protect and provide". What would happen if we were to extend our idea of protection and provision beyond our own tribe and see it in terms of our species instead – so that it would not be manly at all to do either in such a way that left somewhere else someone else unprotected or unprovided? If we take this logic further, then environmentalists and climate activists – not usually spoken of in the most masculine terms – should be the manliest of all, attempting, as they do, to protect the whole planet and try to provide for everyone.

What about bravery? We teach our boys that its physical form is a positive attribute, but what about emotional bravery? Is somatic strength alone enough to survive in the modern world? What about being strong in empathy, wellbeing and mental health as well? You get the idea, and, I hope, see what begins to happen if we expand on the traits of each gender until they meet and we get, well, what exactly? People full of difference, but humans first and foremost, rather than men and women locked within their respective gender boundaries.

It's every parent's prerogative to dream of a better future for their children. In that spirit, by the time my daughters are my age, what might masculinity look like? Men will still have X and Y chromosomes, but also be people for whom power without compassion is no power at all; for whom strength has been decoupled from domination; for whom to be healthy means in body, mind and emotion; for whom oppression is equated with fear in the oppressor and aggression with failure on the part of the aggressor; a person for whom the ability to be vulnerable makes him strong, as does being unsure, uncertain, even wrong; who has cared for and witnessed the growth of his children or who, if he has none, is still involved as a mentor for the next generation, because *not* to be would be unmanly; who, actually, is no longer familiar with that word and would use in its place another term that meant not fulfilling the ideals of being a human.

I know it seems an impossible aspiration, especially as it's getting harder and harder to imagine that better future. Property, Europe, the climate: I see it all slipping out of our children's hands. But if we could pass on this vision of future masculinity, if we could make it possible for them to inherit the idea that men both need to change and can change, and that, in the interests of all, equality is the next great step forward for our species, then that, I can't help feeling, would be a pretty good start. GQ

THIS FOREWORD IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE 2017 POEM "THE MEN YOU'LL MEET", WRITTEN BY OWEN SHEERS AS PART OF HAY FESTIVAL'S 30 REFORMATIONS SERIES

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GQ Details

Edited by
Charlie Burton

Get it together with Jorja Smith p.41 **Street Fighter philosophy** p.43 **Boilersuit rules** p.49

Photograph **Cedric Buchet/Management + Artists**

James Marsden

An actor so square-jawed he seems to have been assembled by a Hollywood hunk-o-matic, James Marsden is back in the saddle for *Westworld* series two. You'll know him from *X-Men* and *30 Rock*, among others, but he's never been better cast than as Teddy, a cowboy/android (cowbot?) in Jonathan Nolan's deep-dive sci-fi series. Just don't ask him to explain what the hell's going on. "It really is the hardest show to talk about," he admits, at least without a doctorate and Nolan-level security clearance. For anyone who missed series one – er, bad luck. But the basic facts are these. Teddy and co are the "hosts" of a futuristic theme park where paying human "guests" get to play Wild West with impunity. That is, until the hosts start fighting back. Last series saw Teddy repeatedly killed by the mysterious Man In Black (Ed Harris), then revived over and over. But which was his favourite adieu? "That's kind of like choosing my favourite child, you know? I'm very close to all of my deaths. They're all very special in their own way," he says. "I did have one where I was hanging 60 per cent naked from a cactus with a condor wanting to rip my insides out, but hopefully there will be a lot less of that this series. Wink wink." Whatever happens to Teddy, there's no doubt Marsden will be back in our lives again. And again. And again... **Matt Glasby**

WESTWORLD SERIES TWO STARTS ON SKY ATLANTIC THIS MONTH

How to spot... Mr Give-A-Damn

The outfits of Hollywood's antistyle dreary men are starting to wear thin

Story by **Jonathan Heaf**

Looking at old paparazzi pictures of Leonardo DiCaprio from the late Nineties through to the noughties feels a little like a close friend telling you what you got up to after drinking seven Negronis the night before. You wince. Then bite your fist. Then scratch your palms nervously like someone trying to clean permanent marker off their soft, manicured hands. Leo is a great many things but one thing he has never been is a natural in the wardrobe department. He has about as much sartorial flare as, well, anyone called Jeremy. Clarkson. Corbyn. Kyle. Pick one – it doesn't matter, they are all sartorially impotent.

Of course, there's no doubt he wouldn't have it any other way, I'm sure. Macho-macho man (and mucho-mucho mumbler) Tom Hardy lives by a similar antistyle philosophy, perhaps only heightened by the time, on duty and off, H-Dog and D-Cap spent time together on *The Revenant* talking about what flavour vaping cartridge they preferred. (DiCaprio currently smokes a flavour called "Gang Bang", allegedly: "Heady top notes of sexual gratification and powerful male entitlement, with smooth, almost invisible aftertaste," reads the label.)

No one is criticising these actors for the clothes they pick, let's make it quite clear, but it is notable for its total lack of effort. It is zero fucks hit over the head with an anvil and then placed in a medically induced coma. To look that ordinary takes something extraordinary. And yes, I know they do it on purpose because – they wrongly believe – thinking about clothing too much makes you some sort of sissy, pillow-munching moron. They couldn't be more wrong. Their antistyle has become as recognisable as Karl Lagerfeld in a black suit with a shirt collar the size of a dog cone. Or Grayson Perry in one of his clown outfits/dresses.

I was recently sharing a piece of excellent turbot with the model Edie Campbell at 5 Hertford Street in Mayfair. Please note, this was a *fashion* event in one of London's smartest venues – you are supposed to dress up. (So special was it, in fact, I wore my Edward Sexton brown suit, something I only reserve for funerals or date nights.) If you don't wear different things for different occasions then what sort of a person does that make you? You wouldn't wear a football kit to your wedding, would you? Actually, don't answer that.

After the meal, we swanned about and who was standing there, dressed like a hungover 40-year-old who had come from the park watching his son play five-a-side? Robert Pattinson (who starred in last year's most shamefully overlooked film, *Good Time*). The handsomeness was on point, but the attire? A crumpled Champion sweatshirt, baggy dad jeans and trainers that you wouldn't give to a charity shop. The un-effort was incredible.

So next time, Tom, Leo, Robert, when you don't want to think about getting dressed, remember this: clothing is a man's way of showing who he is. As someone clever once said, "Removing variety in dress doesn't uncover variety of personality." Grow up and dress up, gents.

Illustration by **Sam Gilbey**

GQ BAND O-MATIC

Do something different – tune in to these new sounds...

Into: Nick Drake?
Try: Isaac Gracie
The Ealing troubadour's debut LP showcases a songwriter with a poet's turn of phrase and a searing voice to match.
ISAAC GRAC E IS OUT ON 13 APRIL

Into: The Strokes?
Try: Hinds
Ramshackle Madrid four-piece team up with revered *Is This It* producer Gordon Raphael for their boisterous second album.
I DON'T RUN IS OUT ON 6 APR L

Into: Prince?
Try: Prophet
The funk pioneer has finally been handed the chance to release a follow-up to his cult 1984 debut, *Right On Time*.
WANNA BE YOUR MAN IS OUT ON 11 MAY

Into: TV On The Radio?
Try: Young Fathers
Edinburgh trio whose mission to deconstruct hip hop sees them exploring dark sounds while still getting you on your feet. **Kevin Perry**
COCOA SUGAR IS OJT NOW

Jacket by **Coach**, £1,300. uk.coach.com. Sweatshirt by **Kent & Curwen**, £165. kentandcurwen.com. Trousers by **Salvatore Ferragamo**, £515. ferragamo.com. Watch by **Breitling**, £4,200. breitling.com

+ GQ Intel

Collectors will notice the reappearance of an earlier iteration of the famous "Flying B" logo, now shorn of its wings. Expect more changes at Breitling shortly.

THE WATCH PAGE

Photograph **Matthew Beedie** Styling **Angelo Mitakos**

Huit of the moment

Breitling's new collection turns back the clock and follows the flight path of its Thirties forebears

Since arriving at Breitling last year, former Richemont Group head of watchmaking Georges Kern (the man responsible for making IWC the name it is today) has been removing many of the brand's more recent tropes, including its over-reliance on high-shine cases, an ultimately confusing number of references and, in particular, a communication strategy that highlighted aviation at the expense of its other assets. Instead, Kern is focusing on a broader brand story, built around a list of firsts – the first chronograph with separate pushers and, arguably, the first automatic chronograph movement.

The fruits of these labours is a new collection of Navitimer watches, given the sobriquet "8" in honour of Huit Aviation Department, the Thirties division created by Willy Breitling to produce cockpit clocks and pilot's watches. There are five in all, summiting in the B01 chronograph, fitted with Breitling's own automatic movement. In accordance with Kern's desire to offer choice, he's also making available a slightly more affordable version (*pictured*), fitted with a modified Valjoux 7750 movement. Both feature 43mm cases, a fluted bezel, "vintage" faceted hands and shorter lugs for a more comfortable fit. **Bill Prince**

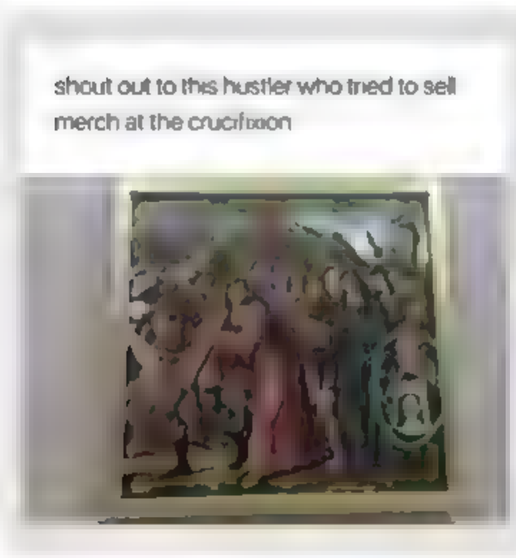
BREITLING NAVITIMER 8 CHRONOGRAPH, £4,200. *BREITLING.COM*

Kettner's Townhouse

If it looks like a members' club, swings like a members' club – sometimes it isn't a members' club. Which is the rather brilliant thing about Kettner's. Having relaunched in January courtesy of the Soho House group, this long-standing London establishment, founded in 1867, is open to allcomers and has vibe to spare. The refurb has been thorough: a dining room, a piano bar and a champagne bar – plus 33 bedrooms – as expensively appointed as anything else in the Soho House portfolio. The food is eminently crowd-pleasing, full of nods to the restaurant's French-dining heritage (Toulouse sausage, côte de boeuf, rabbit rillettes). And, after dinner, you can happily while away your time until 1am amid the *beau monde*. Yet there's no monthly fee to speak of. *29 Romilly Street, London W1. kettnerstownhouse.com* **The power table is No115.**

+The Insta classics

Happy-snap your Instagram feed by following the 'grammers behind three posts we hit like on this month



@fuckjerry

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@friendofbae

By **Alex Wickham**

THE RUMOUR

Is Jacob Rees-Mogg really a Brexit rebel measuring up the curtains at Number Ten? I can reveal that the Moggster has been holding regular private meetings in Downing Street to discuss policy, agree lines and generally be kept sweet. Meanwhile, Rees-Mogg's public perception as a thorn in Theresa May's side only helps her win over Remainers...

Ambitious tarantula-owning defence secretary Gavin Williamson is more popular with Tory MPs than previously thought – allies reckon as many as 60 will back him for leader. Half of them think he's the best man for the job, the other half are terrified of him because he knows all their secrets from his time as chief whip.

If and when there is a Tory leadership contest, I hear home secretary Amber Rudd has told friends she won't be running. She wants to prioritise holding her marginal Hastings seat, which is under threat from Momentum. Instead, Remain MPs are rallying round Jeremy Hunt as their great hope.

Could a Lib Dem leadership contest come first? More than one plot is underway to get rid of Vince Cable after a deeply uninspiring first year in the job. "Every faction wants him gone and is determined to make it happen," claims a party veteran. Deputy leader Jo Swinson is surely a shoo-in as his successor.

DETAILS

Jacket by **Gucci**, £1,100. gucci.com

THE ARTIST TO WATCH

Photograph by **Bella Howard**
Styling by **Jeanie Annan-Lewin**

Jorja Smith

In July 2016, Jorja Smith received a message from Drake. Her brand of jazz, soul and R&B – peppered with samples spanning Henry Purcell and Dizzee Rascal – had excited every A&R in London since Stormzy started giving her shoutouts. Drake wondered if she would collaborate on a song. Her answer? A simple no. "I didn't *get* the song," says the Walsall-born 20-year-old. "I'm not going to do a song just because it's with Drake."

A few months later, Smith ended things with her boyfriend and that Drake track, "Get It Together", about a break-up, finally made sense to her. "I messaged him, like, 'Can I still...?'" The collaboration made it on to Drake's No1 mixtape *More Life* last March and Smith went global overnight.

Then followed her debut EP, *Project 11*, and accolades came thick and fast: a position on the BBC Sound Of 2017 longlist, Mobo nominations, a spot on Kendrick Lamar's *Black Panther* and the Critics' Choice Award at this year's Brits. "A lot of people said I wouldn't win because I wasn't with a label," says Smith. For labels hoping to woo her, just remember: even Drake got the snub. Eleanor Halls

JORJA SMITH'S DEBUT ALBUM IS OUT IN JUNE
VISIT GQ'S VERO CHANNEL FOR MORE EXCLUSIVE CONTENT *VERO.CO*

Make-up **Carol Lopez Reid** using **Charlotte Tilbury** Hair **Zateesha Barbour**

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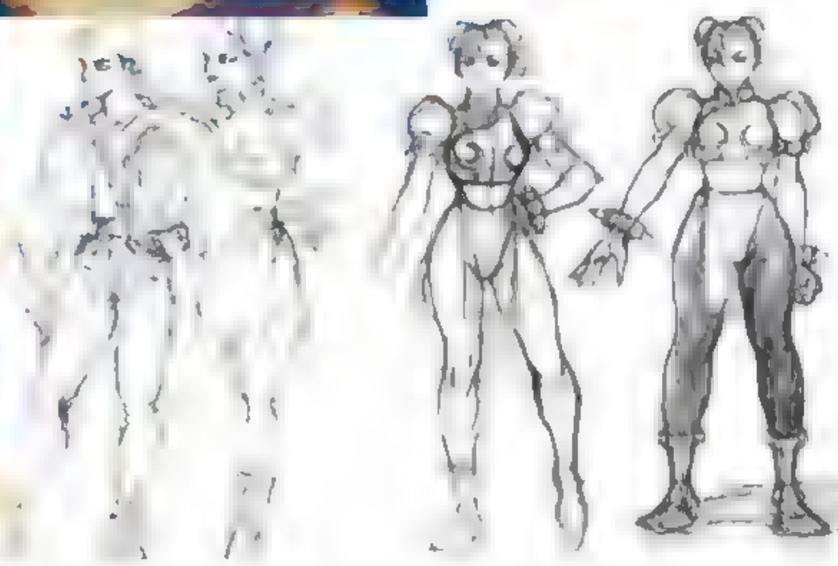
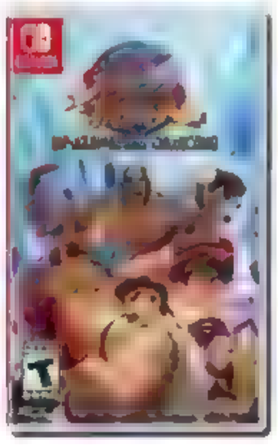
Original art of Street Fighter II mainstays E Honda (left) and Chun-Li (below)



THE VIDEO GAME

Thirty years of Street Fighter Tao

With the launch of an anniversary edition – collecting the series' 12 best outings – new research shows similarities between learning the game and real martial arts



When I was a teenager growing up in South London, a spattering of video game arcades in the city were still grimly hanging on to their precious real estate. Most Saturdays I'd watch the older boys play *Street Fighter* at one of these venues. I was a lousy virtual battler, able to throw a fireball only as a happy accident and rarely on command. But these kids were different. They were true contenders, moving the joystick with clicking precision. For them, the game's special moves had been fully sublimated: no need to concentrate on the "how" of the fingers, but merely on the "when" of the action, responding to their opponent's on-screen jabs and parries with perfectly timed feints and counters.

One day I had a realisation. I had no physical impediment – no missing fingers – that made me any different from these experts. But I hadn't taken the time to properly learn the game. Cut to the world's most mundane training montage. After weeks of practice, I could, finally, speak the language.

Learning to play any of the *Street Fighter* games requires a discipline that is curiously similar to learning a real martial art. Don't take my word for it. Chris Goto-Jones, a philosophy professor at the Univesity Of Victoria in Canada was awarded a £1.1 million grant to explore the similarities. There may be no real physical danger, but Goto-Jones' study has shown that commitment to the game long-term has a positive neurological change on players, making them more meditative, reflective and even philosophical.

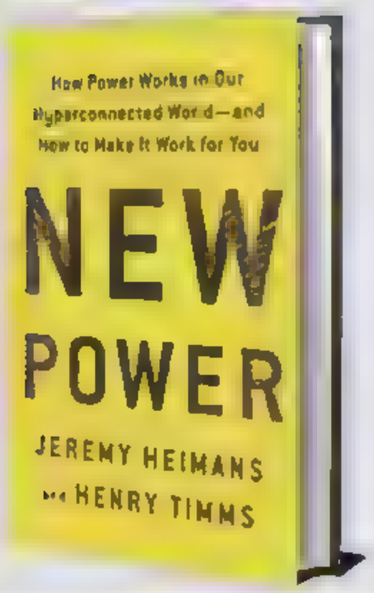
The Street Fighter games made players more meditative

To mark the series' 30th anniversary, its publisher, Capcom, has released a generous "collection" containing no fewer than 12 of the iconic games, from the 1987 original through to 1999's *Street Fighter III: 3rd Strike* (considered by many to be the finest fighting game yet created). It's a pugilistic tour through history, but maybe more than that – a brightly coloured, special move-emblazoned path to enlightenment. **Simon Parkin**

STREET FIGHTER 30TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION OUT IN MAY FOR PS4, XBOX ONE, PC AND SWITCH

THE BOOK TO READ

New Power by Jeremy Heimans and Henry Timms



"Old Power: works like a currency. Held by few. Once gained, it is jealously guarded. New Power: operates like a current. Made by many. It is open, participatory and peer-driven." These definitions are taken from *New Power*, a book by Jeremy Heimans and Henry Timms that examines how the tension between the two will shape the 21st century. We asked them three questions.

Do "old power" organisations really need to embrace "new power" values? Apple is still wildly successful.
Apple has been wildly successful by building a brand that people revere and admire, but most organisations can't pull this off. In fact, for most brands operating today, learning how to get closer to their consumers or constituents and engaging them as they would a community – with transparency, openness and a willingness to collaborate – is key to their success.

What's the most embarrassing example you've seen of an "old power" company failing to embrace "new power" values?
There are many missteps, some funnier than others. The Boaty McBoatface debacle, an earnest attempt to engage the crowd by NERC, a British research agency, is one. If they had embraced the name Boaty McBoatface (despite its absurdity) and engaged a community of people around the world, they might have been able to energise a whole new generation of people.

You're experts in activism. If you could give the Democrats one piece of advice for beating Trump at the next presidential election, what would it be?
Trump was able to harness the intensity of his crowd. The biggest spike in positive sentiment for Trump came when the *Access Hollywood* tape was released, which shows how intense his supporters were. The Democrats should encourage progressives to be creative in developing their own messages. They are more likely to spread in a world of meme drops, not sound bites.
Out on 19 April (Pan Macmillan, £20).

INTRODUCING

BELVEDERE SINGLE ESTATE RYE SMOGÓRY FOREST

ORIGIN BUILDS CHARACTER

A rich and savory vodka crafted with rare Diamond Dankowskie Rye from Smogóry, a tiny village in rural western Poland surrounded by the region's vast, pristine forests. This vodka captures the essence of this unspoiled region, recalling the dense hardwood forests dominating the terroir. Origins matter.

A full bodied vodka with notes of salted caramel, baked bread and white pepper, Belvedere Smogóry Forest is left unfiltered to retain the unique character of the single estate rye.

PLEASE ENJOY BELVEDERE RESPONSIBLY. **drinkaware.co.uk** for the facts

Do you need structure?

With angular frames and artful cabinetry, young British design firm Ivar London has deployed its architectural pedigree to engineer a new penthouse furniture collection

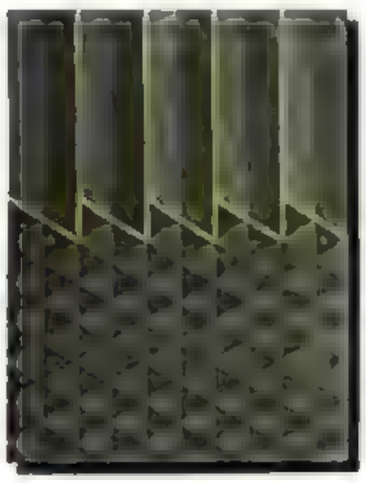
Edited by **Aaron Callow** Photograph by **Yaalini Ilankumaran**

1 Cushions by **Oka**, £42 each. oka.com
2 Floor light by **Fontana Arte**, £1,981. fontanaarte.com
3 Desk light by **Anglepoise**, £250. anglepoise.com
4 Art by **Williams Formula 1 Racing**. williamsf1.com
5 Dining chais, £465 each.
6 Dining table, £11,500.
7 Sofa, £11,250.
8 Cff ee table, £3,250.
9 Rug, £4,395.
10 Armchairs, £3,750 each.
All by **Ivar London** ivarlondon.com

THE INTERIORS UPGRADE

+ Our pick of the collection (including: a cabinet based on an Aston Martin and a rug inspired by London City Hall)

Chest of drawers, £6,500.



Rug, £4,395.

Mirror, £2,495.

Cabinet, £12,500. All by **Ivar London** ivarlondon.com

THE PARTY PAGE

Feast of achievement

Taking place in Mayfair's glamorous Bourdon House, this year's pre-Bafta dinner, hosted by Alfred Dunhill and *GQ*, was the hot ticket of the awards weekend. Heavy hitters Sir Patrick Stewart and Sir Michael Caine rubbed shoulders with movie mainstays Charles Dance and Mark Strong, while bright young things Matt Smith and Lily James added a shot of sparkle. Teo van den Broeke

Photographs **Dave Benett; Richard Young**

JACOB COHËN

Handmade Tailored Jeans

Luxury Makes a Difference

MACKINTOSH
enue NEW YORK
Minami-Aoyama TO
mackin om

THE FASHION MANUAL

How to wear: the boilersuit

Photograph by **Florian Renner**

Styling by **Tony Cook**

It must be wonderful being a toddler. With nothing more to think about than where your next meal is coming from and how soon you can have your next nap, there's also the fact that you don't really need to wear any clothes... other than the occasional romper suit, that is.

Fortunately for the lazy – not to mention function-focused – among us, this Spring/Summer season is all about the all-in-one. From Prada's Paul Simonon-inspired boilersuits to Boss' air force-influenced overalls, right now it's all about wearing a one-piece wonder, wherever you go. Just don't call it a onesie. **TvdB**

The smart one

Jacket, £525. Boilersuit, £489. T-shirt, £55. All by **Boss**. hugoboss.com. Boots by **Grenson**, £240. grenson.com

The dressy one

Coat, £1,720. Boilersuit, £1,180. Shirt, £510. Shoes, £630. All by **Prada**. prada.com. Watch, model's own

The weekend one

Boilersuit, £2,100. Trainers, £570. Both by **Ralph Lauren**. ralphlauren.co.uk. Sweatshirt by **Raey**, £150. At matchesfashion.com. Watch, model's own

Belt up **It's time to buckle up big-logo waist-cinchers, which look as good around your middle as they do in your wardrobe**

Photograph **Pixeleyes**

By **Hugo Boss**, £79. hugoboss.com

By **Prada**, £410. prada.com

By **Ralph Lauren** £330. ralphlauren.co.uk

Outback and beyond

Australian cuisine brings more to the table than damper and Tim Tams, as guests to the capital's new raft of antipodean restaurants will attest. We speak to the people who are bringing over the tastes of home

Darcie & May Green

Sheldon Square, W2.
daisygreenfood.com

Banker-turned-restaurateur Prue Freeman changed her career when she saw a gap in London's street-food scene. Her idea was to bring healthy Australian dishes to the city

What coffee do Australians order?
"Flat white, though in recent years the shorter cortado and piccolo are gaining traction, too."

What's your pick of the native wine?
"Our pinot gris from the tiny Paringa Estate in the Mornington Peninsula is amazing. Perfect with lighter dishes."

How is an Aussie influence woven into your dishes?
"We serve variations of family recipes and local favourites, such as Mars bar cheesecake. Our emphasis is layers and bursts of flavour."

What's the one thing you serve from Australia that most Londoners would never have tried?
"The rocky road that I have been making since I was a child – with cranberries, almonds and liquorice."

The Dayrooms Café

212 Kensington Park Road, W11; 10 Theobalds Road, WC1. thedayroomscafe.com

Anthony Blewman is the operations manager at these Aussie-inspired cafés, which take their cues from Melbourne and Byron Bay.

What coffee do Australians order?
"Lattes with a double shot. We use Australian Bonsoy milk."

What's your pick of the native wine?
"The 2015 Brokenwood Cricket Pitch sauvignon blanc from New South Wales. It's perfect for spring."

How is an Aussie influence woven into your dishes?
"Our consultant frequently travels down under to check the ever-developing brunch scene in Sydney and Melbourne. She comes back with hundreds of menu ideas."

What's the one thing you serve from Australia that most Londoners would never have tried?
"Anzac biscuits are something we have to explain to most first-timers but they always come back for more of their oaty, syrupy goodness."

Antipodea

162-164 Lower Richmond Road, SW15; 9 Station Approach, TW9; 30 Hill Street, TW9. antipodea.co.uk

Australian butcher Jason Wells is the man behind the menu at these Melbourne-inspired brasseries.

What coffee do Australians order?
"Usually a caffè latte with almond milk – dairy-free and low in calories."

What's your pick of the native wine?
"We stock a shiraz from the Yangarra Estate, which is organic and preservative-free without compromising on taste."

How is an Aussie influence woven into your dishes?
"There are no self-imposed rules. The team combines dishes from around the world, the same way menus evolve in Australia."

What's the one thing you serve from Australia that most Londoners would never have tried?
"Milo, which is a creamy chocolate drink served hot or cold with water or milk. Great for healing a hangover."

Wander

214 Stoke Newington High Street, N16. wanderrestaurant.com

Alexis Noble, a Sydneysider, set up shop in 2017 because she missed the restaurants back home.

What coffee do Australians order?
"A super-strong espresso – we're only open for dinner."

What's your pick of the native wine?
"Our wine list is heavy on natural, small-batch wines from young, exciting producers, like the Samurai chardonnay from South Australia."

How is an Aussie influence woven into your dishes?
"We use a lot of native ingredients like in our bush-spiced *affogato* – ice cream infused with wattleseed, lemon myrtle, pepper berry and bush tomato with a shot of coffee and a splash of Adelaide Hills Distillery spiced white rum."

What's the one thing you serve that is archetypally Australian?
"Pavlova. Ours is topped with Yorkshire forced rhubarb and basil. It's a plate of sunshine."

Nicky Rampley-Clarke

Photograph **Leyla Kazim**

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Gucci

Blazer, £1,590. Shirt, £355. Bag, £765. All by **Gucci**, gucci.com. Necklace by **Thomas Sabo**, £138, thomassabo.com

THE
BAG
TREND

Get strapped!

Market trader chic: it's a thing. You need only look at Christopher Bailey's final collection for Burberry – a Nineties-inspired check-fest – for proof. Here, the trend reaches its zenith with the new breed of man-friendly designs, which are less about peddling wares on Albert Square than they are for keeping your car keys safe as you zip around Mayfair on a Saturday morning. **TvdB**

Photographs by **Florian Renner** Styling by **Tony Cook**

Valentino

Jacket, £1,290. Shirt, £425.
Scarf, £300. Bag, £895.
All by **Valentino**. valentino.com

Louis Vuitton

Jacket, £4,450. Jumper, £680.
Shirt, £640. T-shirt, £445.
Bag, £1,460. All by **Louis Vuitton**
uk.louisvuitton.com

Grooming **Elvire Roux at Caro Hayes Mana**

Stella McCartney

Blazer £880 [illegible] £475 Bag £335 [illegible]
Stella McCartney stellamccartney [illegible] Necklace
Thomas Sabo £310 thomassabo [illegible]

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THE
ENTREPRENEUR

Will Dean

The cofounder and CEO of Tough Mudder – which hosts endurance events in eleven countries and now turns over more than $100 million a year – on mentors, marketing and the power of a Harvard MBA

Harvard University

Based London and New York
Age 37

1994 – 1999
Oundle School, Peterborough

2000 – 2003
University Of Bristol,
BSc Economics and Politics

2008 – 2009
Harvard University, MBA

CAREER IN BRIEF

1999 – 2000
Marketing for
the *Mirror* newspaper

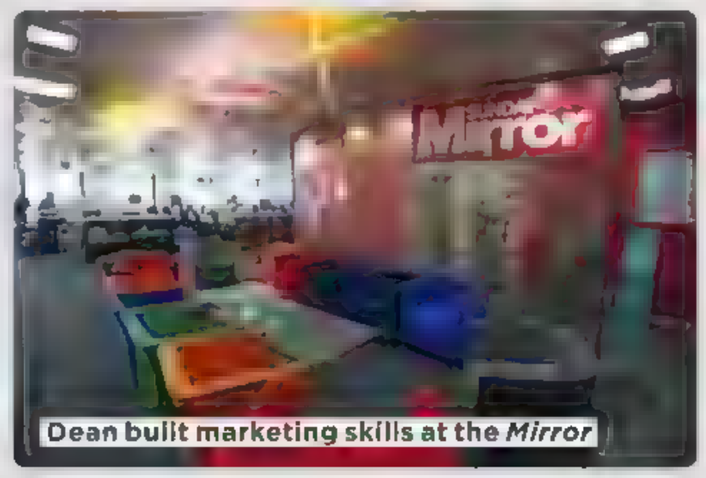
2003 – 2007
Counter terrorism officer
at the Foreign Office

2010
Cofounded Tough Mudder
with Guy Livingstone (below)

2015
Tough Mudder brings in
£72m annual revenue

Punch above your weight

"Aged 16, my schoolfriend Guy Livingstone and I made £20,000 from selling colour-changing nail varnish via Young Enterprise. To seem authoritative to distributors, I'd make them wait on the phone, saying, 'Please hold while I put you through to Mr Dean.'"



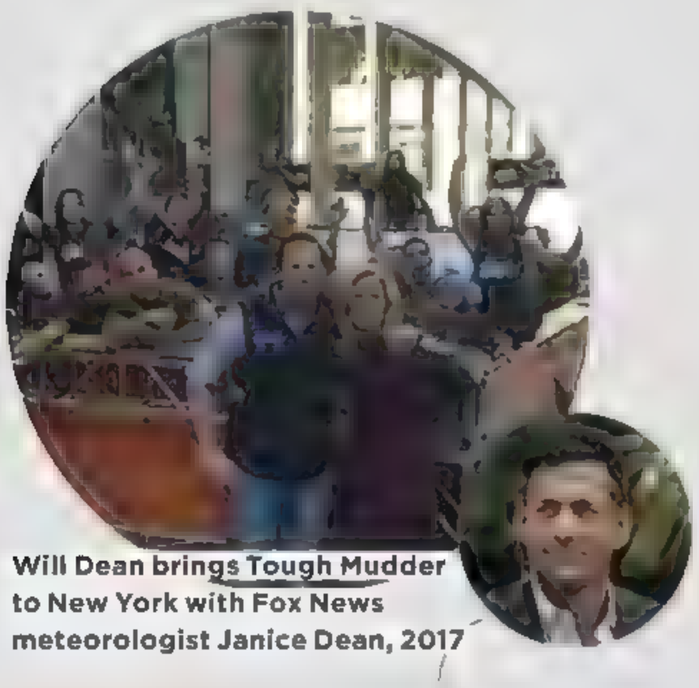
Dean built marketing skills at the *Mirror*

Learn the basics

"I didn't understand how marketing and advertising were different, so the *Mirror* helped me articulate a value proposition, keep customers happy and measure customer sentiment."

Status matters

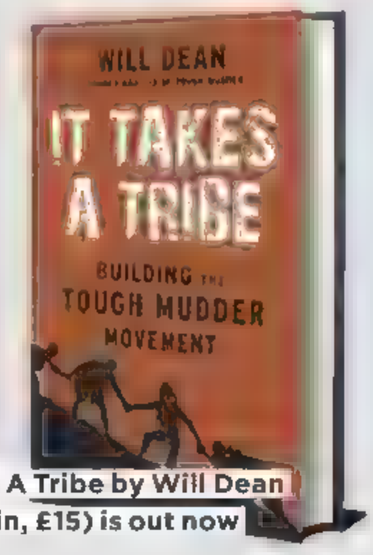
"Being able to go into a meeting with 'I'm a Harvard MBA' means people give you the benefit of the doubt and in certain situations that's very helpful."



Will Dean brings Tough Mudder to New York with Fox News meteorologist Janice Dean, 2017

Find a mentor

"The CEO of Take-Two [publisher of *Grand Theft Auto*], Strauss Zelnick (*inset above*), is good at giving me a prescriptive answer."



It Takes A Tribe by Will Dean (Penguin, £15) is out now

It's not going to calm down

"Young entrepreneurs think that in six months it calms down. But in six months it will have gone from 10/10 intensity to 9.8. If you do a good job, in two years it'll be 8/10."

Finishers at an LA Tough Mudder, 2017

Don't be monomaniacal

"If you bring intense focus to everything you do then you burn through things quite quickly and your ideas won't seem as exciting. I try to be more balanced now."

Text by Eleanor Halls Photographs Getty Images; @instagram.com/toughmudderceo

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WWW.TATEOSSIAN.COM

Backpack by **Off-White**, £450. At Harrods | harrods.com

Cool throwback threads, anyone?

Knightsbridge menswear mecca Harrods has got in on the Nineties trend in a big way this spring with its streetwear department on the lower-ground floor. Featuring a host of sports-luxe labels including Unravel and Palm Angels (best known for its low-key Californian tracksuits), the department has a range of Nineties favourites, such as Fila, Fiorucci, Champion and Kappa. There's also an expansive new standalone boutique from Virgil Abloh's cult brand Off-White. Here, to help you get in on the look yourself, are two of our top picks – because you can never have too many Off-White backpacks. **TvdB**

Jacket by **Marcelo Burlon x Kappa**, £400. At Harrods | harrods.com

Photographs **William Bunce, Pixeleyes**

Lighten the load

Float like a butterfly and sting like a (very well-shod) bee in this season's crop of fl xible, unlined loafers

THE SHOE TREND

Loafers by **Ermenegildo Zegna**, £600. zegna.co.uk

Loafers by **Harrys Of London**, £395. harrysoflondon.com

+

Loafers by **JM Weston**, £620. jmweston com

+

Loafers by **Berluti**, £890. berluti.com

Build a Woah! Record Library

#15 Electric Warrior

By **T Rex** (Fly Records, 1971)

The vinyl revival remains in rude health **Dylan Jones** selects an overlooked classic to hunt out next time you're flicking through the crates

Having spent the Sixties unsuccessfully trying to get arrested as a dandy, Marc Bolan eventually started getting some traction when he tried turning himself into a bungalow visionary and began making folksy records with Tyrannosaurus Rex. Then, still feeling frisky, needing greater success, he went "electric" (ooh, get him!), had a massive hit with "Ride A White Swan" and he ped invent glam rock in the process. He wore feather boas, stacked heels, a bubble perm and a sarcastic smile. And he was adored for it.

In 1971, the year he really took off, he said that, "The majority of pop hits that make it are a permutation of the 12-bar blues, and I've found one that works." Hadn't he just, pumping out a succession of brilliantly conceived trashy pop singles that all sounded terribly on-message. For a few years he was the most famous entertainer in Britain – bigger for a short while than David Bowie, bigger (if you can believe he was ever mentioned in the same breath) than Gary Glitter – before succumbing to ego and cocaine.

Then his repetitive 12-bar blues suddenly sounded like old Chuck Berry B-sides, he got properly fat and was killed in a car crash. If the crash had happened two years previously he'd be as revered as Jim Morrison or Kurt Cobain. It's an odd thought, but true.

The nine singles from "...Swan" to "20th Century Boy" are all essential, as are "Child Star", "Cat Black (The Wizard's Hat)", "Life's A Gas", "Stacey Grove", "Baby Strange" and "Mad Donna". He didn't make classic LPs, but *Electric Warrior* is his best, when the Stamford Hill Imp (Bolan was an imp way before Prince) was in his pomp and when he still had a 28-inch waist.

+Augment your life

Three substitutions to make this month

Forget
Netflix's Marvel shows

Turn on
Legion series two

X-Men spin-off *Legion* is the most innovative show on TV right now. Rather than deal in external blows, most of *Legion*'s action takes place inside the mind of a troubled mutant super-brain (played by Dan Stevens). The result is what would happen if Charlie Kaufman and Chris Nolan made a superhero series together. Smart, weird and very good. *Legion series two starts on Fox UK on 17 April.*

Switch off
Sky Sports

Click on
ArsenalFanTV

AKA, the rise of spite-viewing. Sure, Sky Sports is still great and remains the No1 source for both live Premier League matches and Gary Neville's losing-it-while-watching-Arsenal-try-to-tackle. If it's the latter you really enjoy – and let's face it, who doesn't? – then the specialist oddity that is the YouTube-based ArsenalFanTV, which interviews fans about matches, is compulsive viewing, no matter who you support.

Ditch your
Smartphone loyalties

Buy a
Chinese handset

The Chinese are coming and at a price point that shows they're not playing. The big players may still own the top end of the market, but if you don't want to blow a grand on a phone, look east. The latest is the Nuu G3, which boasts a 5.7-inch screen, fingerprint recognition and dual rear 13MP cameras, all for £199. Following in Nuu's footsteps: Xiaomi, which is planning to enter the US and UK markets by next year. **Stuart McGurk**

BRING YOUR 'A' GAME

No40
How to fend off a dog attack
Clint Emerson is a former US Navy operative who once worked for Seal Team Six, the group that took out Osama Bin Laden. Here is his advice for dealing with a dog

1 Assess the threat
Look at the dog's body language. Warning signs: static tail, head held directly in line with the body, growling, baring teeth and walking towards you. Prepare to respond fast.

2 Try to defuse the situation
While you shouldn't run off or turn around, slowly back away. Not working? Make yourself look big and shout. Try gaining a height advantage – climb on an obstacle.

3 If an attack is inevitable...
Take off your jacket and wrap it around your arm. Offer this to the dog but try to get it to bite the top of your arm, away from arteries; it's less likely to cause a major injury.

4 Defeat the dog
Fall on the dog and push your arm hard into its mouth – the dog will find this extremely uncomfortable. Strike the muzzle, eyes or behind its front legs – a sensitive area

5 Treat your wounds
The dog should let you go. If you're bleeding, tie a tourniquet above the wound and seek medical attention. ***100 Deadly Skills by Clint Emerson (Simon & Schuster, £11) is out now.***

Illustrations **Dave Hopkins; Dale Edwin Murray**

INTRODUCING

BELVEDERE SINGLE ESTATE RYE LAKE BARTĘŻEK

ORIGIN BUILDS CHARACTER

Crafted with rare Diamond Dankowskie Rye from an estate on the shores of Lake Bartężek, in Poland's Masurian Lake District, this vodka reflects the unique terroir of its namesake single estate. Snowy, cold winters stress the rye and develop in the vodka a delicate, refined character more reminiscent of the region's calm lakes than its harsh climate. Origins matter.

A complex, floral vodka with notes of sweet spice and spearmint, Belvedere Lake Bartężek is left unfiltered to retain the unique character of the single estate rye. Its characteristics are delicate and perfect for elegant, crisp drinks served up.

PLEASE ENJOY BELVEDERE RESPONSIBLY. **drinkaware.co.uk** for the facts

IT TOOK US 128 YEARS TO GET THIS RICH.

To us, it's the experiences we share that make you truly wealthy. Which is why we've spent over a hundred and twenty-five years travelling the globe, embracing different cultures and perfecting our recipe.

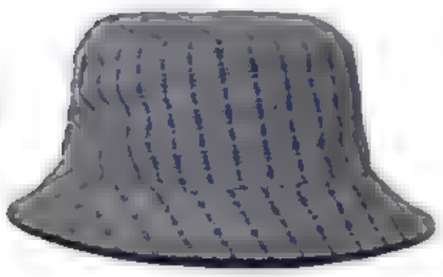
San Miguel Especial. As rich in experience as it is in flavour.

Enjoy Responsibly
drinkaware.co.uk for the facts

SanMiguel.co.uk

EXPLORING THE WORLD SINCE 1890

Hat by **Moncler**, £295. moncler.com



Hat by **Acne Studios**, £130. At mrporter.com

Hat by **Prada**, £200. prada.com

Jacket, £150. T-shirt, £45. Hat, £35. All by **Pretty Green**. prettygreen.com

THE HAT REVIVAL

Full to the brim: Why you need to get involved with this summer's fashion comeback

Forget forecasters and social-media influencers, the forthcoming trends are really set at Miuccia Prada's seasonal show in Milan. The epoch-defining Italian designer has a knack for foreseeing all major trends before they happen, like a high-fashion priestess or an ultra-stylish Nostradamus. Take the new bucket hat vibe. First introduced into the cultural vernacular by the likes of **Liam Gallagher** and Robbie Williams in the pie-eyed Nineties, bucket hats fell off the face of the earth until recently, when Prada put branded nylon ones at the front and centre of her Autumn/Winter 2018 show. Here, to get you started, is our edit of the best bucket hats out there right now, from psychedelic styles at Pretty Green (created in tandem with British designer **Katie Eary**) to checked-up buckets at Acne Studios (very Nineties indeed) and the aforementioned monochromatic styles at Prada. Now all you need is a bumbag. **TvdB**

Photographs **Getty Images; Pixeleyes; Florian Renner** Styling **Tony Cook** Grooming **Elvire Roux at Carol Hayes Management**

+ Spied Gizzi Erskine opens The Dining Room restaurant

Culinary queen Gizzi Erskine is opening her first London restaurant, The Dining Room, in Hackney's Mare Street Market this month. It will seat around 65 diners, but good luck getting in. **marestreetmarket.com**

+ For the nightstand

To Throw Away Unopened
by Viv Albertine

The Slits guitarist releases the follow-up to her 2014 memoir, exploring love, family and herself with the same unflinching, savage honesty. OUT NOW

The Feather Thief
by Kirk Wallace Johnson

A true-life detective story in which the author hunts down Edwin Rist, who was responsible for the biggest natural history heist of the century. OUT ON 24 APRIL

The Man On The Middle Floor
by Elizabeth S Moore

A sparkling debut that has been described as Mark Haddon meets Lionel Shriver, this is about three people, two murders and one house OUT ON 12 APRIL

Fascism: A Warning
by Madeleine Albright

The first female US secretary of state examines the rise of fascism in the 20th century to show how its legacy is impacting on the 21st. OUT NOW

+ Don't miss

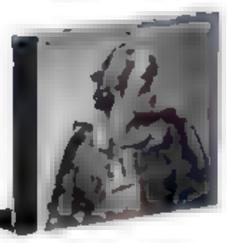
Joe Lycett

As one of British stand-up's most sought-after tickets, Joe Lycett's new show is effortlessly funny. Predictably, he's had to extend his tour to the end of the year. UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER

GQ NAVIGATOR

Diarise these!

From books to art shows via your next television binge, get ahead of the water-cooler chat and set your cultural compass to this month's pole stars...



+ Listen to

Resistance Is Futile
by Manic Street Preachers

After the yin and yang of *Futurology*, the Manics return to grand, poetic arena rock. Mood: euphoric despair. OUT ON 13 APRIL

Song For Alpha
by Daniel Avery

The master technoist's sophomore album is a labyrinth to get lost in. OUT ON 6 APRIL

Golden Hour
by Kacey Musgraves

Country music's chilled rebel pushes the Nashville envelope on a fourth album that includes disco, cosmic Americana and an LSD epiphany. OUT NOW

Sex & Food
by Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Like a sleep-deprived Prince, Ruban Nielson concocts a decadent brew of funk, rock and psychedelic soul. **Dorian Lynskey** OUT ON 6 APRIL

+ Stream it

Silicon Valley

One of the best TV comedies right now, *Silicon Valley* is an arch look at the Californian startup scene and is now back for a fifth series. ON SKY ATLANTIC THIS MONTH

+ Art

Monet & Architecture at The National Gallery

Think of Claude Monet and you think of nature. This show explores his oeuvre entirely through the buildings he painted. FROM 9 APRIL TO 29 JULY

+ In cinemas

Avengers: Infinity War

The Avengers team up with the Guardians Of The Galaxy. The result? Possibly the most expensive film ever made, with a rumoured budget of $1 billion (£720 million). OUT ON 27 APRIL

Ghost Stories

Silver screen adaptation of the Olivier-nominated play devised by *The League Of Gentlemen*'s Jeremy Dyson. Very British, very creepy OUT ON 6 APRIL

A Quiet Place

A world where malevolent creatures hunt by sound, forcing surviving humans to live a life of silence, is the premise of Emily Blunt's latest. OUT ON 6 APRIL

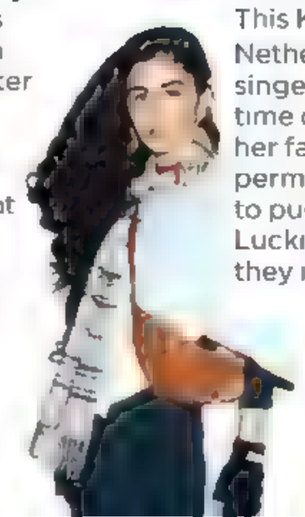
120 Beats Per Minute

A dynamic tale of Aids activism in Eighties Paris that manages to braid heartbreak with joy. OUT ON 6 APRIL

Festival guide

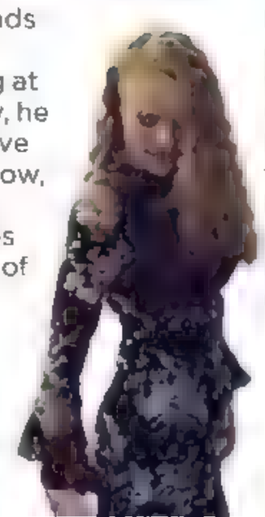
Next month holds one of Britain's best music weekends: Brighton's Great Escape, the biggest festival for emerging artists in Europe. Here are four acts not to miss...
FROM 17 TO 19 MAY

Dermot Kennedy
Taylor Swift has named this Irish singer-songwriter one of her favourite musicians. And if you don't want to take it from her, take it from us: he's good.



Naaz
This Kurdish-born, Netherlands-based singer had a hard time convincing her family for permission to pursue music. Luckily for us, they relented.

Tom Grennan
After his friends were wowed when he sung at a house party, he decided to give music a go. Now, he is winning collaborations with the likes of Charli XCX.



Freya Ridings
Drawing comparisons with London Grammar and Florence Welch, this singer brings classica precision and raw emotion to celestial pop.

Photographs **Matt Crockett; Getty Images; LMK Media**

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RESORTS

Michael Wolff, GQ Contributing Editor and author of Fire And Fury: Inside The Trump White House, photographed in London, 2015

THE
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
INTERVIEW

Michael Wolff

Fire And Fury is the biggest nonfiction event in modern times. Having talked his way inside the Trump administration, the author, a GQ Contributing Editor, defied the will of those who opened the door by lighting a match that's burned ever since. Here, he tells of Steve Bannon's next step, all the president's women and defends his claim that Tony Blair wants a job at the White House

Portrait by **David Bailey**

There have been many big noises created by and around President Donald Trump. "The book" was a big one. Michael Wolff's *Fire And Fury* paints a brutal picture of the Trump White House as dysfunctional, factional and driven by one man's gigantic but curiously shaky ego. Whether it was the ego or the dysfunction that led Trump and his team to give access to a journalist known for creating waves and riding storms, who knows? But they surely regret it now. Wolff got in, got out and is now cleaning up with a global bestseller. As we sat down to talk in Claridge's in London – only the really big authors get put up there – Wolff told me proudly that the book has now been translated into 35 languages, with more to come. His book is what publishers call "an event". Wolff's accountant will be loving it too. Nonfiction does not get too many *Harry Potter* moments.

Some, among them his fellow journalists, have been quick to leap upon inaccuracies and inconsistencies. Listen to Wolff, and he was allowed to pitch up, plop himself down on a sofa, watch the comings and goings, hear the whispers and record it for a rather scary first draft of history. Hear his detractors, and he was given an inch and stretched it to a mile. Yet the general picture chimes with what we see playing out day after day on the TV channels to which Trump appears totally addicted. The image of "the most powerful man in the world" propped up in bed with a Big Mac, staring at three tellies all talking about him, is hard to shift, or fathom.

It is clear that anyone inside the White House is swimming in a sea of competing claims and personal enmities, Trump having set the tone with his fragile hold on truth. Allowing Wolff in at all strikes me as evidence of the dysfunction he goes on to portray. He was lucky to have Steve Bannon batting for him and talking to him freely. I don't know Bannon, nor the other wacky characters surrounding Trump. But I do know Tony Blair and my confidence in the book was dented somewhat on reading both that my former boss was angling for a job via Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and that he had told the White House that UK intelligence services had been spying on Trump during the presidential campaign.

We met shortly after Wolff had called Blair "a complete liar" for disputing his version and claimed that he had heard part of the conversation that led to him making some of those allegations. Before we got to that, we did several entertaining, if alarming, rounds on Trump, the man who told his highly unofficial, deeply unflattering biographer that he wanted to be the most famous man in the world and, sadly, succeeded. >>

BOSS
HUGO BOSS
watches

AC: Michael, let's start with quick fire. Donald Trump, is he a racist?
MW: Yes.
AC: Is he a sexist?
MW: Yes.
AC: Is he misogynist?
MW: Yes.
AC: Is he a narcissist?
MW: That's one of those words I'm not sure about.
AC: Well, is he totally consumed by himself?
MW: Yes.
AC: Is he of low IQ?
MW: He has managed to go through life absorbing as little information as possible. He is no genius.
AC: Do you think he might have mental health issues?
MW: I think he has always been a peculiar person, peculiar in his responses, in his reactions, different, clownish. In the White House it is an open discussion that he would repeat the same three stories every 30 minutes, now it is every ten. There is open speculation whether this is 25th Amendment stuff relating to his disability to be president or if he's not getting enough sleep, the pressures are so great etc, etc. It is pretty disconcerting for everyone.
AC: Are you slightly ashamed as an American that he is your president?
MW: I am optimistic this is aberrant. It comes along; it will right itself. I was more concerned during the George [W] Bush presidency. This is almost like a silver lining, he doesn't know enough to do anything, to mobilise this government, the executive branch, this enormous bureaucracy. It is literally beyond his capabilities. The idea of Donald Trump sending us to war, of him sitting in a room with generals long enough to send us to war and then sending us to war, is almost beyond imagination.
AC: What does it say about the US that he became president when people knew he was racist, sexist and misogynist?
MW: Steve Bannon's view is that there are two countries at war with each other and one will win and one will lose. It's hard to disagree with that.
AC: Which side is winning?
MW: I would say actually – trying to say this in a value-free way – the good guys are winning. In a way, with Donald Trump, you can see this as a last stand of a demographic that is literally disappearing.
AC: Why do you think he gave you the time of day?
MW: Because he is a numbskull. I saw someone from the Obama White House last week. He said this would never, ever in a million years have happened [in the last administration]. It would be debated, dissected, analysed. This was not.
AC: So how did it happen?
MW: I [first] went to the president-elect in December 2016 and said I would like to come to the White House and be an observer. I think he thought I was asking for a job.
AC: He thought there was a job called "observer"?
MW: Maybe "deputy assistant observer". I said, "No, I would like to write a book." His face totally deflated. He lost interest. But he didn't say no. He says, "Yeah, sure, break a leg, whatever." I went back to Steve Bannon and I said this is what he said and he said, "Well, it's not a no," and then that became kind of a yes and everybody in the White House was told, "This guy is doing a book. Speak to him" and everybody spoke to me. The inauguration was on the Friday, I was in next week.

'Think of Trump as a reality show performance motivated by the ratings'

AC: How many times?
MW: Usually every week, a couple of days I would go down.
AC: Did you have a pass?
MW: Whoever your first appointment was with would put you in the system. You've been there. You go in, Pennsylvania Avenue, sign in and you're in, into the West Wing, see whoever, then plop down on a couch, then nobody comes for you.
AC: You never got thrown out? Nobody said, "What are you doing here?"
MW: No. They come to understand and they feel sorry for you. You're waiting for Steve Bannon, so that could be waiting for days. And then, as you have your appointment, people get to know you, recognise you, some of them knew me anyway, so, "Come back and have a chat."
AC: What was the most surprising thing you witnessed?
MW: The most surprising thing over the course of these seven months was that I watched the president's closest advisors go through an arc of being confident about this president, about their jobs, supportive, to being confused, disillusioned, incredulous and then afraid. This is literally everyone, 100 per cent, getting to the point of saying they really don't think that this guy can do what you have to do to function in this job.
AC: Yet if they can, they stay.
MW: That's a curious thing, almost everyone has left, or is in the process of leaving. The two central advisors are this woman, Hope Hicks, she is 29, a former junior fashion PR person who sort of went onto the campaign, became an intern body person, then a spokesperson – a perfectly nice person who knows nothing about nothing. And Stephen Miller, early thirties, Bannon referred to him as "my typist". They are the president's central political and policy advisors. [Hope Hicks resigned three days after this interview.]
AC: You've mentioned Bannon a few times. How much was this book driven by him?
MW: A significant voice in the book, but literally everyone was participating in one way or the other.
AC: Did you get him at a moment of high hubris?
MW: I got Steve at a moment of high hubris and a moment of tragic loss. He had lost influence in the White House, lost belief in Trump.
AC: You say near the end of the book he thinks he can be president. Does he seriously believe that?
MW: Steve is not where he thought he would be at this moment, but he believed the guy in Alabama, Roy Moore, would have won that [Senate] seat. It would have been his candidate, not Trump's candidate, so Bannon was to be the kingmaker, going into 2018 as the central political presence for the far right.
AC: How are your relationships with all these people now? Bridges burned?
MW: Yeah
AC: Does that bother you?
MW: No. I mean, I have not spoken to Steve since the book came out, but I will reach out some time soon. Will he be receptive? Maybe.
AC: I couldn't work out your own take on Jared [Kushner] and Ivanka [Trump]. It felt like it was Bannon's portrayal of them.
MW: They are preposterous. What are they doing there? They are perfectly decent people, intelligent enough...
AC: Is Ivanka more intelligent than her father?
MW: She's more intelligent than her father.
AC: More than her brothers? >>

MW: Yes.
AC: Is the father more intelligent than the brothers?
MW: Yes. The brothers are really dumb. [Jared and Ivanka] are perfectly fine people. They just don't belong in the White House. It is absurd they are there in a position where they kind of rule it.
AC: Are they the driving power?
MW: The driving power is Trump, his impulse, his desire to be satisfied at any given moment. That is what runs this White House.
AC: You see the people who voted for him. Is he remotely motivated by them?
MW: He is motivated by an audience. Think of it as a reality show performance motivated by audience; by what motivates that audience; by what gives him ratings.
AC: But not by their lives?
MW: No, no, no. Nothing flows *from* Trump; it all has to flow *toward* him. It is all about what he gets. I don't think he can conceive of the other side of that.
AC: So that is narcissism, all about him, in power for himself.
MW: When I interviewed him in 2016, it did not cross my mind he would be president and I said to him, "Why are you doing this? What is the goal?" And he was very straightforward, very calm. He said he wanted to be the most famous man in the world. I thought, "OK, a level of self-awareness."
AC: And why? What does he get out of that?
MW: He gets more attention.
AC: What comes through also is this very curious relationship with the press – hating them but wanting to be loved by them. Same with the establishment.
MW: Exactly. What is that about? Partly, again, the reality show model. It's about conflict. It doesn't have to be real. High stakes, low stakes, just make the show work. There cannot be too much conflict.
AC: There is so much stuff that seemed amazing at the time that I had already forgotten. So in a few months' time we will have forgotten he said we should arm teachers. What does that say?
MW: It says something about the level of conflict, just revving it up, and fundamentally the conflict has no meaning. In other words, if we started a campaign to arm teachers and do everything you had to do to accomplish that, then we would remember that, but if you just say it and then nothing happens it goes away.
AC: Crazy.
MW: It is completely crazy. It is just reality TV.
AC: Could he win again?
MW: I don't think so. I don't think he could win again and I don't think he will run again. One of his gifts, an extraordinary gift, is to be able, in the midst of huge failure, to declare victory.
AC: What do you think will happen if he comes here on a state visit?
MW: I think it will be... awkward.
AC: Do you think the Russian thing could get him?
MW: I think almost anything could get him. The Russian thing could get him. The cover-up of the Russian thing could get him. The girls could get him. The money could get him. He is not safe at any point. The people who work for him could get him; his family could flip on him; his wife could leave him. There is nothing in the Trump universe that you could say is reliably on his side.
AC: Yet he is still there. The Republican Party tolerate him.
MW: They tolerate him because just after the election [Senate majority leader] Mitch McConnell said, "He will sign anything we put in front of him." Yet at the same time they hate him, because he calls and yells and belittles them and comes up with names for them and most of all he doesn't listen.

'The Russian thing could get him. The girls could get him... His family could flip on him'

AC: Now, you have had a fair bit of stick. Maggie Haberman at the *New York Times* questioned your book. You acknowledge some fact-checkers, but was this thing fact-checked the same way a newspaper article would be?
MW: Probably not and that is probably its virtue. You know newspapers. I mean, we do different things. The Washington corps, of which I am not a part – I have never wanted to be part of it, have never been interested – has a specific function, to log this every day. I don't have to log this every day. I get to write a book.
AC: So you're painting a picture?
MW: Yes. You know, when I wrote this book, I'm not thinking how Norman Mailer would do it, how Mark Twain would do it or how Armando Iannucci would do it and I'm certainly not thinking how Maggie Haberman would do it. I come out of a world where there are a lot of ways to do journalism. I come out of a magazine world where you're trying to tell stories. I come out of a freelance world where writers are responsible only to what they are writing.
AC: So you would feel comfortable in reporting things that are said to you without being sure that what is being said is true?
MW: Absolutely. The *New York Times* function is a very narrow-cast view of facts. My function is to have an experience and come in contact with characters and to get them on the page so that a reader can experience them in a way that is close to the way that I experienced them.
AC: You were on *The Andrew Marr Show* talking about my friend Tony. I cannot imagine Tony Blair, knowing him as I do, having a difficult, sensitive conversation with anyone else if, in that space, there is someone who he doesn't know.
MW: He's had that conversation. Remember, this is not a difficult conversation. This was a total "please like me, please use me, please hire me" conversation with Jared Kushner.
AC: I don't believe he would do it and certainly wouldn't with someone sitting just over there.
MW: He is standing in the White House and the conversation... It was a conversation I am writing down because I'm thinking, "Oh my God," and the line was actually not Tony's that stuck out most of all. It was Jared's line in which they were talking about the Middle East and they're obviously saying goodbye to one another. Tony is leaving. They're talking about what they're going to do and Tony is very solicitous of Jared, you know, and even with that, we are already in a situation. Why would Tony Blair be solicitous to Jared Kushner?
AC: He is a polite guy. But hold on a minute. They have had the meeting?
MW: Yes.
AC: So they have had the meeting, then come into a corridor and then have a conversation about the idea that British security services spied on Trump...
MW: That is not the conversation they are having there.
AC: What is the conversation there then?
MW: Marr didn't ask me about that conversation. He asked me about Tony >>

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>> trying to curry favour and that is the conversation I was witness to, a kind of currying of favour conversation, and then Jared...

AC: In the book you are saying both that Tony wanted a job, which I don't believe he does, and second, that Tony was saying the security services were spying on Trump, which is nonsense [that he said it]. I can't believe he would say that to anybody.

MW: All that I know is that that was reported to me and the consequences of that were reported to me.

AC: Which is that Bannon and Kushner get in the car and go to the CIA?

MW: Bannon and Kushner get in the car and go to the CIA to see if what Tony said to the president was true, or the implications of it were true. And again I was careful to say I don't know if Blair said this is what might have happened or this could have happened or anything. All I know is that the president took from what Tony Blair said that the Obama Administration had in some way wiretapped him and immediately sent Bannon and Kushner out to Langley to find out about it. That is what I said. And I saw Tony and Jared having this conversation and Jared says, "Damn it, we can solve this problem, the Middle East."

AC: That is not Tony Blair grovelling for a job. It is also unfair to call him a liar based upon saying the conversation you reported in the book never took place.

MW: As, um, I... the Marr thing was, "Was he grovelling for a job?" What I witnessed was certainly a man sucking up to someone who could give him a job.

AC: Jared?

MW: Tony needs a job. Jared's got a job.

AC: Tony doesn't need a job.

MW: We all need a job.

AC: You don't need a job now. Hey? Come on, are you into eight figures yet? You're definitely into seven figures.

MW: Seven figures in which way?

AC: Dollars. This has made you a lot of money.

MW: We're waiting to see.

AC: Thirty-five languages so far.

MW: And don't forget the movie.

AC: Trump's given a new life to journalism, satire, publishing...

MW: Not only that, by coming out and trying to stop publication of this book, it was like, "Oh my God..." The smile on me.

AC: No fear at all? He is the president.

MW: The president can do many things, but the one thing he really can't do is stop the publication of a book.

AC: But it's quite a thing to get a lawyer's letter like that from the American president.

MW: I guess there was probably a second's hesitation, but my publisher just thought, "Oh my God."

AC: Have you been surprised by just how big it has gone?

MW: Of course. Apparently for a nonfiction book this has never happened before, so we are in some Trumpland phenomenon.

AC: That bit he probably likes.

MW: Yes. He literally will figure out a way that this book is to his credit.

AC: On something closer to home, Brexit, do you think he cares what is going on here?

MW: When I interviewed him at the beginning of June [2016], two weeks before the Brexit vote, I said, "What's your view on Brexit?" He said, "What?" I said, "You know? Brexit," and he said, "Huh?" and I said, "You know? The vote

'His relationship with Russia is weird. Obviously Trump has a man crush on Putin'

in the UK to leave the European Union." And he said, "Yeah, I'm for that." So the depth of his understanding here is shallow, to say the least. From Trump's point of view, it is so far out of anything that influences him.

AC: So when he is in bed with his Big Mac and his three TV screens, phoning these billionaire friends of his, he would never think maybe to call an Emmanuel Macron or an Angela Merkel. They're not on his radar unless they have to be?

MW: No. And can the UK get some special deal? Yes, anyone can get a special deal as long as they flatter him and as long as they give him something he wants.

AC: So if he came on a state visit and it was a dog's dinner of protests and a mess, that could be a real problem?

MW: Big problem, yeah. Then no deal. *Totally*. On the other hand, if someone comes up with something that the UK could offer Donald Trump...

AC: A statue?

MW: A statue, possibly. A hotel site. Claridge's! Then there are possibilities, for sure.

AC: What do you think of the Vladimir Putin relationship? Weird?

MW: Yeah. It's weird. Obviously he has a Putin man crush. He wants approval.

AC: Do you think he is jealous of him?

MW: Could be jealous. Could be Putin has something on him. I got a description of this trip Trump did in 2013 to Russia and he expected Putin was going to greet him and the oligarchs were going to line up and none of that happened, and as someone described it to me, he had to go to a dinner and the guy next to him couldn't use utensils. So he felt that he had not achieved what he set out to achieve and the possibility is he has continued to pursue Russian love.

AC: There are hints of an affair in the book. Who is he having an affair with now?

MW: I assume somebody. His whole life has been chasing women. Do you think that ends at the White House door?

AC: And the thing about Trump phoning husbands with their wives listening in, you know that as a fact?

MW: Yes.

AC: So, he sits there – with the wife of the guy on the speaker phone – tempting the guy to talk about wanting to have sex with other women?

MW: Absolutely. I know friends of Trump. Whatever you have to say about him, they say, "Listen, you have to understand that Donald Trump has no scruples." This is a land of the people without scruples defining Trump as a person truly without any kind of moral basis.

AC: So whatever criticism you have of George W Bush, when he said [about Trump's inauguration speech], "That's some weird shit," he was right.

MW: That was some weird shit.

AC: And the whole thing is some weird shit?

MW: Sure. It is a heck of a story. **GQ**

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One of the world's most renowned tattoo artists explains why he uses Nivea Men to stay looking his best

Ink, uncovered...

Tattooist Kevin Paul on the whys and wherefores of a body art master:

Who or what inspires you?
"My family inspire me to do what I do everyday. Without them, there would be no point in doing it."

What are you listening to?
"I love the Eighties, but I've been listening to a lot of Nineties for the last couple of months. I'm a sucker for a love song, always have been!"

What would you say to someone who's planning on getting a tattoo?
"Make sure your skin is prepped, shaved and moisturised and that you've researched your chosen tattoo studio and artist."

Where do you get your ideas from?
"I don't really know where I get my ideas from. My brain just never stops going. My tattoo art mostly comes from the client telling me their story, then I just make it come to life."

Is the art of tattooing a bonding experience?
"Yes, I like to bond with everybody before I tattoo them. I like to help people open their minds to create something that's personal and that looks great."

Is there a type of tattoo you haven't done yet?
"I have been tattooing for about 27 years now so I have seen most trends come and go. I don't think there is much I haven't tattooed!"

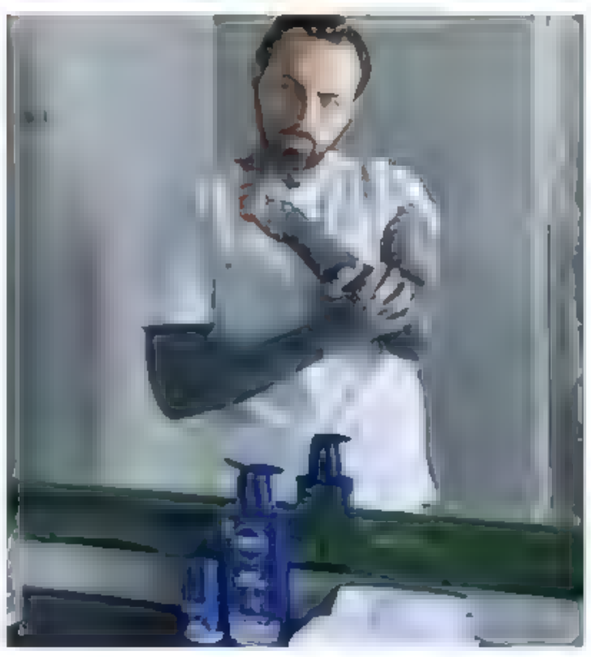
What do Harry Styles and Ed Sheeran have in common? For one thing, they both bear the mark of celebrity tattooist Kevin Paul. With 26 years' experience, Paul knows a lot about skincare. His shoulders and arms are completely inked, so he's part of the growing trend of men who use the NIVEA MEN body shaving range to keep their tattoos looking sharp every day.

As he explains, it's important to have the right tools for the job. "Recently, I've started using the new NIVEA MEN Body Shaving Anti Irritation Shaving Stick and have never looked back," he says. "It's transparency and easy-glide properties allow me to see exactly where I'm shaving while leaving the skin moisturised and hydrated."

The NIVEA MEN Body Shaving Stick is specially designed for use in the shower and allows simple and targeted application.

Paul knows how important it is to keep your skin looking its best. "Tattoos are personal and can last a lifetime with the right care," he says. "Anyone who has a tattoo knows its part of their identity and they want to show it. I recommend my clients use the NIVEA MEN Anti-Irritation Body Shaving After-Shave Lotion, which makes the colours more vibrant."

That's advice worth listening to. When it comes to looking your best, nobody's got more skin in the game than Kevin Paul.



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+SS18, deconstructed p.80 Style Shrink p.83 Wallet, watch, ST Dupont p.90

Pack it in or pack it up. Be like Rod and Britt in 1976 and rejoin the battle of the bulge this summer – p.89

THE GQ RULES

Photograph David Steen

This is for the style lodestars. The agitators. The peacocks. This section believes in combining an aesthete's eye with an inner rebelliousness. From killer opinion to white-hot trends, these pages are not about following tradition, but beating your own path. You're welcome...

Edited by **Jonathan Heaf**

Diet Prada (Lite)

After all, imitation is the greatest form of flattery

Behold the anatomy of three massive Spring/Summer looks, à la Instagram's favourite fashion bounty hunters @diet_prada

1. Dolce & Gabbana

Conor McGregor's spirit animal MEETS The Talented Mr Ripley

Where some designers are struggling to fit in with this brave new world of fashion, a world where models are Insta-famous first and clothes-horses second, Domenico and Stefano have embraced maximalist clothing that comes with their own in-built fluoro filters and embroidered emojis. Summer never looked so "likeable".

1. Matinée idol short back and sides.

2. Gary Grant's *To Catch A Thief* neckerchief.

3. Leonardo DiCaprio's shirt from *Romeo + Juliet*.

4. Ed Sheeran's lion chest tattoo

5. Luxe clutch Or is that a leather washbag?

6. Espadrilles. Because flips flops are for the spa only.

dolcegabbana.com

2. Balenciaga

Dadcore MEETS Russian security guard MEETS Happy Days

What took so long for hardline fashion labels to finally go dadcore? While other brands are happy to indulge our wanton single lives, Demna Gvasalia wants family to come first and fashion aloofness to come later. "There is nothing more beautiful than seeing young dads with their kids," he professed. Cutting-edge style is child's play, after all.

1. *The Matrix*/ Oakley-inspired sports shades

2. No smiling. This is fashion.

3. Children: the ultimate affectation for style hounds.

4. Sock trainers! For kids! (Aren't these just slippers?)

5. Bleached narrow jeans. Excellent poor taste.

6. Crocodile-effect monk strap Derbies. Very Nicolas Cage.

balenciaga.com

HOW TO BE A... big swinging dick*

**Clue: ditch the manbag, pronto*

By Dylan Jones

Your Samsonite might just be your greatest workplace weak spot

Back when I got my first job, I'd go to work with a shiny black metal briefcase. Even though I didn't really need one, even though there was nothing in it – a newspaper, my Filofax and a Granny Smith if I was lucky – it made me feel important. Grown up. A member of the "Adult Club". Like I'd finally arrived.

This briefcase was how I stratified myself, how I defined myself for the world at large. It was less, "Look at me, I can afford a pocket square!" and rather more, "Look, I've got a job!" I would go from meeting to meeting with my little tin briefcase feeling like a Master Of The Universe, the "Water Cooler Winner". As I bounded onto the Tube every morning I imagined I'd just stepped out of *Mission: Impossible*, *Man In A Suitcase* or *The Avengers*. I had a grey flannel suit, an HB pencil and a Mickey Mouse attaché case and I thought I was king of the world.

But a few years ago, as I lugged myself to work, I caught sight of myself in a window, carrying my briefcase, and my heart sank. It suddenly struck me: even though I was wearing a good suit, a brand new pair of brogues and exactly the right pair of sunglasses, and even though my briefcase was actually a not-too-shabby black nylon laptop case, I looked like a failure, like one of those "mister" men from a Ray Davies or Paul Weller song, who spends his life in quiet desperation, commuting to and from gnomeland, every evening catching the 6.10pm back to suburban oblivion. I looked like a drone, a worker bee, like someone who works for someone else. And although I do, although many of us work for someone in some way, does it ever make us feel good about ourselves? Don't we all want to be Big Swinging Dicks?

Briefcases, I realised, make any man who carries one look like an employee, hardly a man with control over his own life, a man with a clear sense of his own destiny. Sure, you might have a good job, a six figure salary and a decent expense account. But using a briefcase undermines you.

3. Thom Browne

Mad Men internship MEETS first day at Swiss finishing school

As the worker bees trudge to boardrooms in their ubiquitous suits, Thom Browne feels their pain. And he wants to help. This summer, the label is all about abandoning the formal rigidity of tradition or assumption – even gender – and making your workwear work that much harder, creatively speaking. And, yes, those are short shorts.

1. The anti-Timothée Chalamet tousle. Because tidiness is close to godliness
2. "Iceman" Val Kilmer shades.
3. Shark-grey suiting.
4. English schoolboy short shorts (ã la Angus Young).
5. Long, black mismatched socks, like an off-duty Jonah Hill.
6. Suddenly wearing shorts to work doesn't feel like such a misstep.
thombrowne.com

Photographs **Alamy; Getty Images; Landmark**

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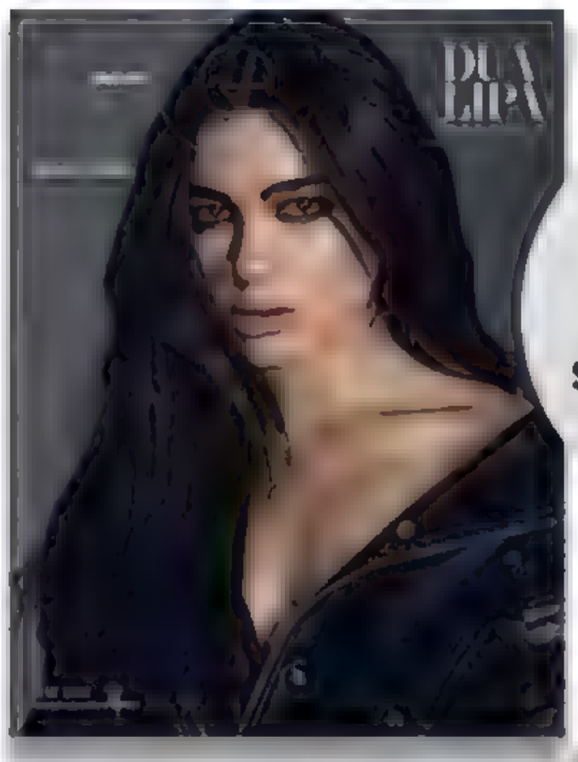

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Style Shrink

By **Teo van den Broeke**

As sharp-toed shoes make a comeback, Teo van den Broeke points you in the right direction

My girlfriend tells me that all the cool guys are wearing pointy shoes again. Is she right? I thought it was only elves, court jesters and Dane Bowers who still wore pointy shoes, but I'm happy to be proved wrong. If I truly should be wearing pointed shoes – or winkle-pickers, as I know they're sometimes called – which ones should I be wearing? And how should I be wearing them? *Stuart, Enfield*

Dear Stuart,

Your girlfriend, I'm loath to reveal, is right. The reason I'm loath? As with all things in menswear, the good stuff serves a purpose (keeps you warm, feels good against your skin, flatters the features that are already there), while the bad stuff is little more than useless affectation. Pointy shoes of a certain kind – the curly toed winkle-pickers of which you speak – do none of the above and are therefore the ultimate affectation.

Fortunately, for Spring/Summer 2018, designers have addressed the issue by introducing a more sensible form of pointed shoe. Parisian brand Berluti has a chisel-toed cowboy-style boot, which, by virtue of its ultra-thick sole, feels masculine, rugged and, most importantly, at no risk of curling up at the end. At Gucci, pointy horsebit loafers are slightly rounded at the toe, which has the effect of elongating the foot without making it look as if you're about to take part in a joust. At Saint Laurent, this season's suede Western boots feature pointed toes and Cuban heels – the look being less Simon Cowell, more John Leguizamo as Tybalt in Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*.

If you do plan on wearing pointed shoes, Stuart, you need to commit to the look. Your suit should be slim-cut, dark and totally rock'n'roll. Your trouser hems should finish above the tongue of your shoe with zero puddling. Under your suit jacket, you should be wearing a dark close-cut sweater or a silk shirt unbuttoned to sleazy perfection. Most importantly, however, your torso should be as taut and toned as possible, as an angular shoe will only work to highlight the curves of a softer frame.

Can you recommend good, affordable made-to-measure tailoring services? I'm giving a reading at my friend's wedding in June and I don't want to spend a fortune on a summer suit I'm only going to wear once. Help! *Rob, Ealing*

Dear Rob,

For the uninitiated, "made to measure" is an alteration of existing suit patterns; bespoke is when a suit is built from scratch. The good news is there are loads of great, surprisingly affordable services out there. Reiss, J Crew, Club Monaco and Massimo Dutti all offer made-to-measure tailoring and you'll be looking at between £400 and £800 for a suit (around 20 per cent more than off-the-peg) that will take four to six weeks to make.

A Suit That Fits is a good option at the cheaper end (suits are handmade in Nepal and start from around £280), but for something a little bit more special you could try Austin Reed Bespoke or P Johnson (the latter is great for light, unlined summer tailoring and suits start around £1,200). Style-wise, Rob, why not opt for a single-breasted suit in very pale pink? It's a summer wedding, after all, and if Zayn Malik can do it, so can you.

Can I wear a fleece? *John, by email*

Dear John,

If you and I were an item I'd be ending things with you for asking a question like that. The reason? A fleece is a dangerously inflammable representative of all things comfort-focused and unaesthetic, a fleece is the kind of thing your fiftysomething spinster aunt would wear to go metal-detecting. A fleece, in short, is the physical manifestation of giving up on life.

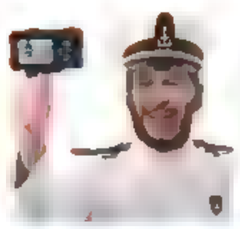
Luckily for you, John, it has, however, become an unlikely style antihero of 2018. Fendi used shearling in its knowing take on a fleece for the Autumn/Winter 2018 collection; Scandi brand Our Legacy does a nice velvet option; outdoorsy label And Wander has a surprisingly appealing panelled fleece in muted tones; and Patagonia is the place to go for classic dad fleeces with a retro edge.

If you are going to attempt to rock a fleece, make sure that you do it with a heavy dose of irony. Wear one with perfectly cut tailoring for ultimate uncle-at-a-conference chic. Or team it with "mom" jeans for peak *Seinfeld* style. If in doubt, however, or you happen to be over 25, just wear a sweatshirt.

Illustration **Joe McKendry**

Celebrity cruises best avoided bingo!

Trust us: some uncharted waters are better off unexplored...

	Donald Trump	Timothée Chalamet	Any vlogger ever	Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson	Kanye West
Captain					
Vessel	Nuclear submarine	James Bond's Lotus Esprit S1 amphibious sports car	A VR headset	A pedalo	
Locations	Alcatraz (one way!)	Northern Italy	Some photographic studio for hire in Dalston		River Seine, Paris
Activities while onboard		Chalamet's grooming/ haircare 101		3am wake-up call followed by an intense bench press sesh	
Merch for sale	"Make Cruising Great Again" baseball caps		A nonstick frying pan signed by Joe Wicks	Steroid injections	All Kanye West records/ clothing sold at the RRP
Suggested reading	*Fire And Fury* by Michael Wolff	*Call Me By Your Name* by André Aciman	*The Subtle Art Of Not Giving A Fuck* by Mark Manson	Bro, the only thing you'll be reading is the calorie intake on that protein bar	*The Art Of War* by Sun Tzu

Three ways to wear... flared trousers

Fat Bottomed Boys

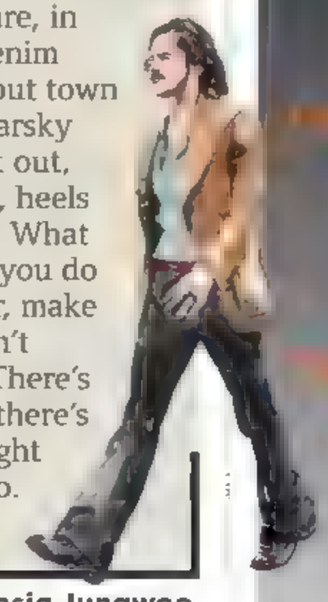
Maybe you saw your father in a flared suit? Or maybe it was a photograph of him? He told you he was at some party or other. "Was Mum there?" you asked, innocently. "No, son. That was before I met your mum..." You noticed a smile that spread across his face like warm Flora on Hovis, all melty and smug. If you didn't know it then you know it now: that is the look of a man who was, back in the day, a freewheeling sexual libertine. (Well, what else do you think your mother saw in him?) A corduroy flared suit could be just the look to change your dry spell.

Flat White

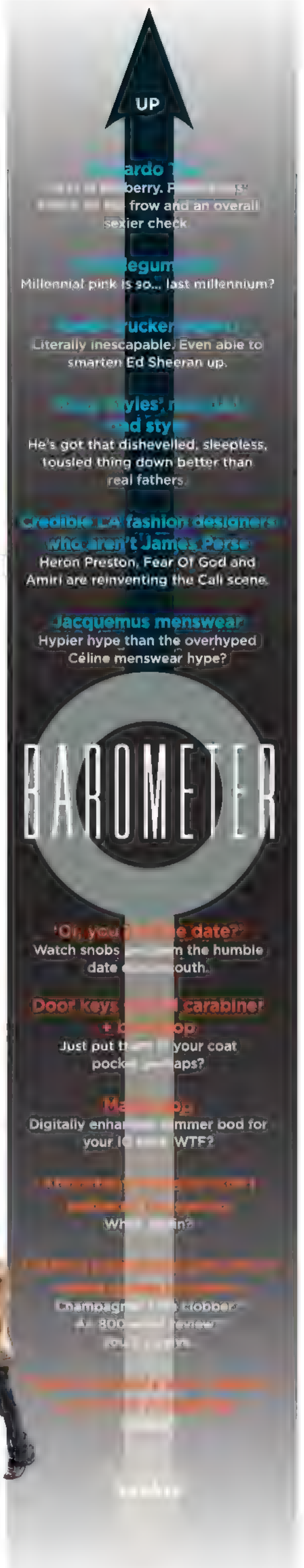
Forget damn daffodils: summer for the urban style savant only truly starts on spotting the first pair of ice-white jeans on public transport. "Oh, look, there's a pair sat on that bench," you coo, like fashion's Sir David Attenborough. Of course, white jeans can come across as a bit common, like tanning or dim sum for lunch. Add a wide flare to a pair of cotton ivory slacks, however, and you're operating on a whole other level: randy sailor on leave meets louche Italian fashion designer with an interest in glamour photography. Strong. Very strong

American Hustle

You adore your skinny denim like a clam loves spaghetti but then you watched David O Russell's genius crime comedy for the umpteenth time and thought, "You know what? I think I can pull that whole Seventies thing off." So here you are, in your long, dark denim flares, striding about town like a flat-pack Starsky and Hutch, chest out, tash shimmering, heels all clickety-clackety. What a chunk of hunk. If you do wear heels, however, make sure those flares don't come up too short. There's Seventies and then there's retro – fall on the right side of the disco, bro.



Illustrations by **Kasiq Jungwoo**


UP
Millennial pink is so... last millennium?
Literally inescapable. Even able to smarten Ed Sheeran up.
He's got that dishevelled, sleepless, tousled thing down better than real fathers.
Heron Preston, Fear Of God and Amiri are reinventing the Cali scene.
Jacquemus menswear
Hypier hype than the overhyped Céline menswear hype?
BAROMETER

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SPEEDOS

Have you got the balls?

By **Tom Stubbs**

My father loved to swim, and so did his father before him. Donald would be taken to the ponds in Wimbledon on the crossbar of his father's bike, where they would swim with other game South Londoners.

Don swam in Speedos wherever we went on holiday. Decades later, I am the last male Stubbs standing (or treading water) and I, too, love to swim outdoors, also in Speedos. The London Fields Lido is my beloved spot.

Proper swimmers at the Lido swim come hail or high-varicose count and male ones do it in Speedos. In Essential Endurance+ 7cm Sportsbriefs by Speedo, that is: the model not only synonymous with the brand name itself, but also the marque of the serious swimmer and a no-nonsense, egalitarian, masculine option for all.

The tech isn't difficult: the streamlining yields zero drag with no excess material to inhibit movement. But, brothers, it's not just freedom they deliver. Speedos' athletic credentials justify wearing the skimpy garment, while sporty context affords carte blanche to unheard-of exposure. Invented by Peter Travis in 1961, the Speedo briefs rocked convention: beach inspectors arrested the first man they saw wearing them, though charges were later dropped. Thus Speedo granted mankind access to new moves and far more exciting tan lines.

Personally, I love how donning Speedos is the diametric opposite of giving a brass damn about fashion. They are an antidote to the churning cycle of trends and stand in defiance as a truly singular perennial. Let's be straight, it takes balls to wear them.

It helps, of course, that regular swimming doesn't half do your body the world of good. Through the years, girlfriends of mine have come down on both sides of my Speedos.

No question, they are a matter of taste and it is prudent to keep things palatable in public. Also, while your "family jewels" are on display, be mindful where your other valuables are stashed. On holiday, I hide my hotel room key/phone in my trainers on the shore and swim off with splashy abandon – like a cross between Roberto Cavalli and Iggy Pop. I've made spiritual contact with my father while open-sea swimming. Don would have bloody loved the locations I've got to. For the brand's 90th birthday this year, get confident and find something spiritual in your Speedos too. Just ensure your personal topiary is tidy.

Clockwise from above: Sir Tom Jones, 1987; Iggy Pop on stage at the Whisky A Go Go, 1973; Sylvester Stallone as Stud in Italian Stallion, 1970

Photographs **Getty Images, Matrix Pictures; Xposure**

The cult of navy blue*

**Or why 99 per cent of men are excusably boring when it comes to colour*

Like a moth to a particularly weak flame, I can't get enough of navy blue. And the extent of my addiction became clear on a recent online shopping spree. With riches from Italian tailoring brands Lardini, Boglioli and Caruso and global mega brands Gucci, Saint Laurent and Givenchy all at my fingertips, what did I buy? A khaki flight jacket from Aspesi? An ivory silk granddad shirt from Massimo Alba? Of course not: I chose four of the same navy crew-neck jumper. All made from fine-gauge merino wool. All from John Smedley.

The issue was compounded when, a few weeks later, I decided to embark on a mass wardrobe clear-out and discovered 14 of the same jumper (in various states) hidden among my navy-blue trousers, T-shirts and overcoats. Like a junkie in the depths of his addiction, I refuse to apologise for it. I know what suits me.

"For me, [navy blue] represents an infinite range of possibilities," says Giorgio Armani. "Eminently versatile, [it] embodies countless variants and never ceases to inspire me with its timeless allure." Quite.

Embracing yet exclusive, warm yet cool, navy blue got its name in 1748, when Royal Navy officers started wearing uniforms cut from dark-blue wool. As a consequence, it's a colour that speaks of function and propriety as much as it does of elegance and ease. If navy blue was a person, it would be an aloof, sophisticated type. Someone of advanced years and extended means. Charles Dance, for instance.

Now that I own 18 (count 'em!) John Smedley crew-neck jumpers, I'm thinking of taking the plunge into navy-blue Smedders cardigans – but I'll need to build up to that. Being quite so pedestrian with my colour choices is going to take a surprising amount of courage. **TvdB**

1,001 manssentials*

*Because who doesn't need, well, everything?

With **Nick Foulkes**

This month The ST Dupont Complication lighter

Lighter by **ST Dupont**, £35,000, st-dupont.com

Setting fire to a cigar is one of those junctions where tradition meets technology. Sticking a bundle of leaves in your mouth, igniting them and enjoying the flavours as they waltz, foxtrot, rumba or otherwise dance across your palate, is a low-tech, analogue human activity that the indigenous people of the Americas enjoyed long before Columbus turned up and informed them they had just joined the Spanish Empire. And after a rocky start – one early cigar smoker was locked up by the Inquisition because his neighbours thought the smoke coming from his nose and mouth was the work of Satan – it caught on over here and the Cuban leaf has been in demand ever since.

If one wants to look for a true European contribution to the culture of tobacco it is in the ignition of the stuff, as we have moved from the primitive business of flints and kindling, via tapers, spills and matches to pocket lighters.

A lighter snob since I was introduced to Dupont almost 30 years ago by the inimitable Edward Sahakian of Davidoff, I have taken a keen interest in the marque. For the cigar lover, it occupies more or less the same hallowed space that Patek Philippe does for the watch obsessive. The feel, the weight, the patina it takes on with time, the chime as the lid is flicked open, sounding like a miniature church bell pealing out over a winter landscape: it is chic and talks to my inner pyrotechnician.

The Dupont family had tried its hand at most things, from champagne to photography, before settling on lighters: and in 1952 it launched a gas lighter with the miracle of the adjusta ble flame. It was the golden age of tobacco and advertising sold the elegance ("The best-dressed flame in the world") and the precision ("Built like a chronometer, designed like a jewel"). Like a Cartier Tank watch or a Charvet shirt, a Dupont lighter was a talismanic symbol of what it was to be elegant, stylish and French

Now, in a stroke of Archimedean genius, Dupont has propelled cigar-tech to a new level: combining the gentle caresses of the traditional yellow flame and the searing, annealing heat of the blue flame in a single pocket lighter.

The yellow flame is the smoking room staple, noiseless and easy on the eye. By contrast, using a blue flame indoors is as elegant as wearing rubber boots and a cagoule: the roar as the geometrically correct shard of heat surges from the end of the lighter is disruptive; those of a nervous disposition scream in terror; pets cower under furniture; and so on

However, if you have attempted to light a cigar in anything stronger than a draught you will know the value of the blue flame: cigars take time to combust and during the application of flame to leaf you are vulnerable to the slightest change in wind direction, rather like a yachtsman preparing for an Atlantic crossing. Often have I regretted not consulting the Met Office before setting out for the day. The only solution has been to carry a brace of lighters, like some sort of Wild West gunslinger.

These are genuine concerns that assail cigar lovers. Happily, Dupont was listening and in 2016, after four years' R&D, it launched its "Complication", the tourbillon minute repeater perpetual calendar chronograph of lighters. The official communiqué talked of unifying in one object "fine watchmaking, jewellery and the art of fire". With a 200-part skeleton mechanism visible through a crystal case secured by a combination lock and executed in palladium and gold it showcased the revolutionary flame-switching technology, albeit at a price: around £35,000 (and add another £50,000 or so if you fancy covering it in diamonds).

It is a concept so radical that there are few parallels in any other field of human endeavour, except perhaps the Q Branch of the more fanciful Bond films; it is like being able to transform a pair of jeans and a T-shirt into a dinner jacket while you are wearing them. Flick open the lid, activate the side roller and the yellow flame is released, nudge the roller up and the yellow flame turns blue before your eyes.

Now, with the invention of the ST Dupont Ligne 2, this technology is within reach of the man who doesn't mind dropping the thick end of £1,000 on a lighter... after all, some cigars now cost hundreds a stick. It is what is called progress. Back in the days of Columbus this sort of trick would have wound up getting you burnt at the stake for witchcraft... for which, of course, I would suggest a Dupont blue flame. Bonfires are notoriously tricky to get going.

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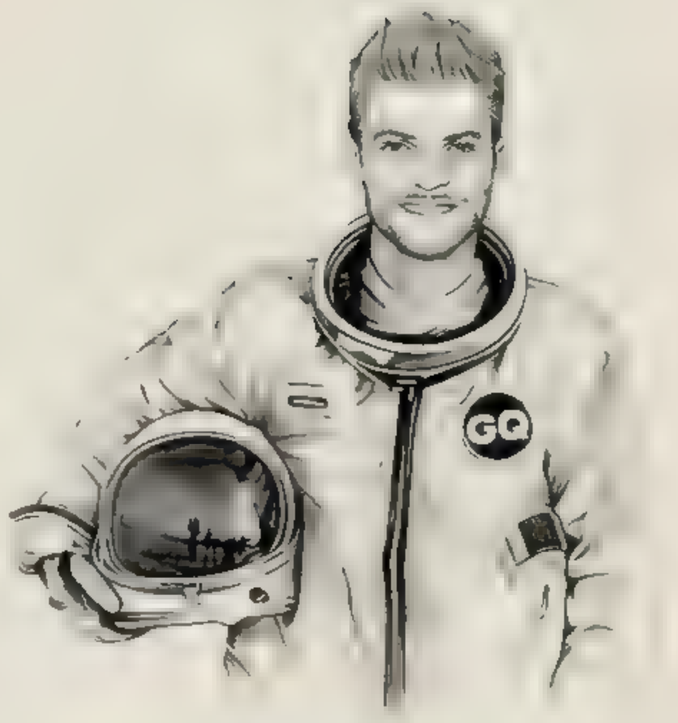

Jim Chapman is the GQ

Test Pilot

This month: Face sheets

I terrified my wife a lot this month. As it turns out, if you want to enjoy a sheet face mask and avoid a divorce, it's best to warn your other half before they wander into the dimly lit room you're sitting in and see you wearing a face that isn't yours. It's fair to say that for this month's Test Pilot, I pushed her jump-scare tolerance to its limit.

Sheet face masks come in a plethora of shapes and sizes and there was all manner of oddities to get through. I had a monkey's face, a pink gimp mask-type thing, a panda head and one that apparently made me look like the lead role in *Shrek The Musical*. But what kind of test pilot would I be if I wasn't willing to put my relationship on the line in order to best inform you which are worth investing in?

A particularly fun example came in the shape of the Dr Jart Firm Lover Rubber Mask (*£10. At Selfridges. selfridges.com*). It is certainly an odd one to look at. If you find pink bondage rubber odd, that is. But it's also one of the most comfortable and most effective. It consists of two steps, the first of which is an intensive gel-like serum made of salicylic acid and red seaweed that promises firmer skin. To prevent said serum from evaporating before it's reached optimal penetration, step two is to apply the rubber mask. I recently turned 30 and over the past few years I've started to become aware of the beginnings of my future wrinkles. However, upon removing this mask, I noticed that my skin felt significantly firmer, more plump and hydrated. Also, as a side note, where most of the others I tried are papery, this is thicker and more robust and I'm not entirely sure why, but there is something strangely satisfying about that.

Another mask looks like something you'd dredge from the bottom of a swamp during a police search, but it did such a good job that I'll let it off. Star Skin's Anti-Aging Liftaway Mud Face Sheet Mask (*see right*) goes on wet and stays on until it dries. Simple. It's much less messy than traditional mud face masks of the same ilk and also promises a deep clean. Just pop it on your face, relax and peel off 20 minutes later. No need to smear it on or scrub it off. I was short of time so had to use this one in my management's office (much to the amusement of my team, who weren't wearing face masks during working hours) just before heading into a meeting. There were one or two spots of residue left around my nose and in my beard, but after a quick splash I was good to take my meeting, confident that my face wasn't red from furiously scrubbing away dry mud. The mask is saturated in kaolin clay which softens, draws out impurities and unblocks pores. Usually, after a mud mask, my skin feels thirsty, but this one also has tremella mushroom, which did a very good job at keeping me hydrated.

Knitwear is no longer limited to your torso now that Neogen has invented the Pink Cactus Liftmax Knit Mask (*see below*). It's made from a knitted mesh that's so soaked in its special formula it oozes out when you press it onto your face. I could feel my skin drinking up the serum as it went to work hydrating, nourishing and conditioning. And there was plenty left over (particularly in my eyebrows) to be massaged in once I lifted the sheet away. As with every other mask I tried this month, it wouldn't adhere to a beard and instead just hung limply from my nose and cheekbones. That said, when in contact with skin, it settled on nicely and felt the most therapeutic of them all. Though the other masks provided various and useful services, this one seemed like it was actually feeding my skin something vital and my face thanked me for it. Totally worth shocking my wife into an early grave for. **GQ**

I used the mud mask at the office before a big meeting...

Best for novelty thrill

A *knitted* face mask? Sounds and looks odd but then – guess what? – it works

Knit mask by Neogen, £6.50. At Selfridges. selfridges com

Best for Instagrammers

For those who don't care much about their skin but want to take lots of selfies.

Animal mask by Skin 79, £5. At Selfridges. selfridges.com

Best for hydration

If you've started to notice smile lines, don't call your surgeon. Instead, hydrate

Sheet mask by Dr Jart, £5.50. At Selfridges. selfridges.com

Best for neat freaks

Most mud masks are messy, but this one keeps its kaolin clay beneath ultra-fine gauze

Mud mask by Starskin, £8 50. At asos.com

Illustration Ricardo Fumanal

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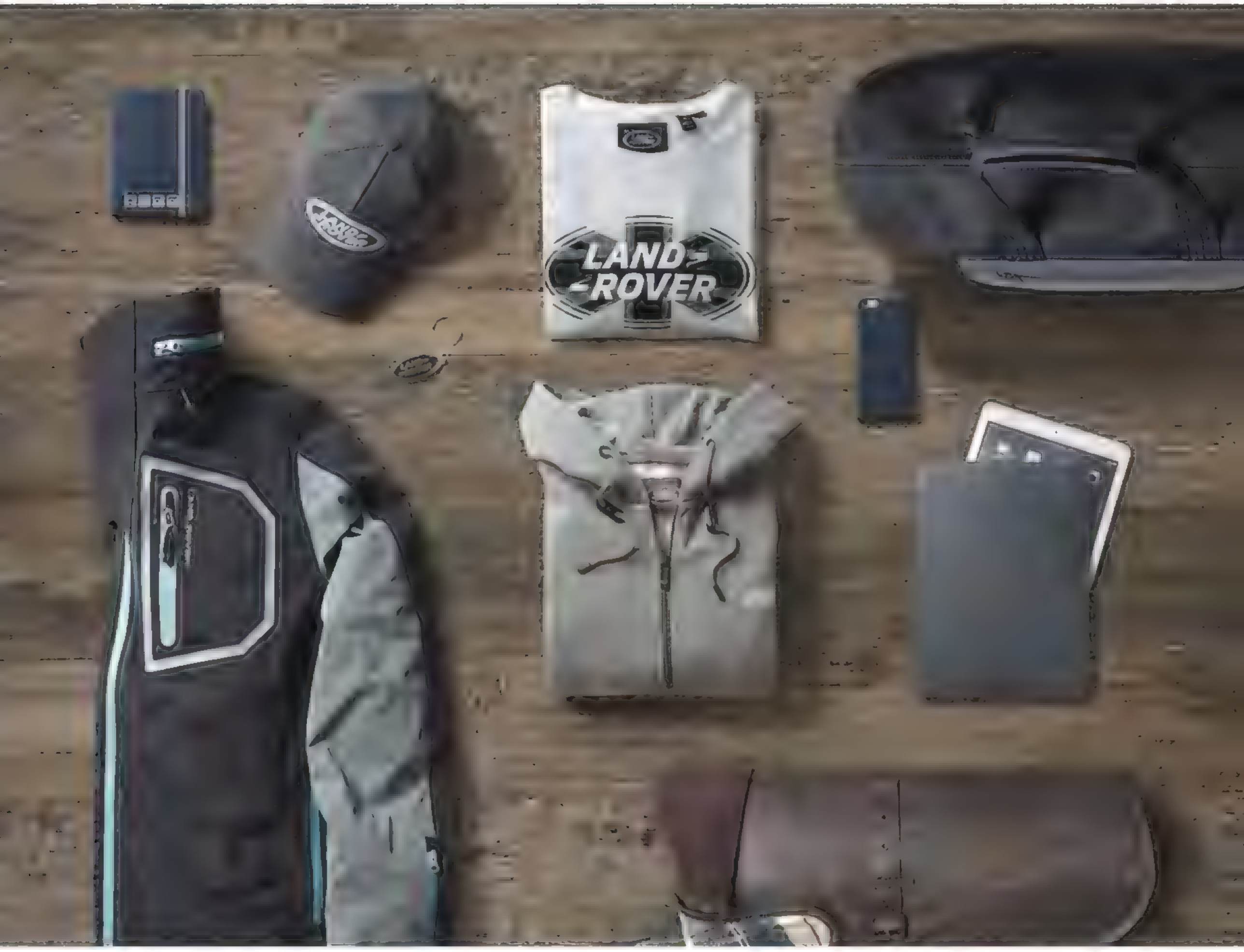

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Edited by
Paul Henderson

GQ Cars

A tale of two tourers

Story by **Jason Barlow**

Motoring's illustrious high-performance marques of distinction are fixing to do battle. GQ drops the top and opens the pipes as the Ferrari Portofino takes on Aston Martin's Volante

Aston Martin is developing what will likely be the most extreme car ever made, the Valkyrie, with the Red Bull Formula One team. The new Vantage has just landed, in road and racetrack guise, so you'd be forgiven for thinking that chopping the roof off its DB11 coupé would be something of a footnote in Aston's rapidly unfolding product landscape.

On the other hand, this might just be the definitive modern Aston – and GT, for that matter. The contemporary grand tourer is a car that scribbles anew on the fading memory traces of the late Fifties and Sixties European playboy archetype, a more languid and less psychologically damaged one than James Bond (all Aston stories are obliged to mention, you know, *him*). At 1,870kg, the Volante is chunky, but its extra heft forces you to ease back a little, still in the full expectation of having a very good time indeed. Isn't this what an Aston Martin is really about?

These are also cars that should be no-messing, drop-dead beautiful. But Aston has a problem here. Since 2001's brutally elegant Vanquish, Astons have been so perfectly proportioned they're basically unimprovable. How do you move on from that? By adding a little grit to the mix, which is what the DB11 coupé did, deliberately so. It looks progressive, but has fussy elements.

The drawing board has been revisited. In losing its roof, the DB11 also loses its trickiest feature, the awkward C-pillar, and the result is arguably 2018's most beautiful car. The signature Aston grille morphs into the bonnet's curves which in turn find their way into the doors and up into a pronounced set

Need to know

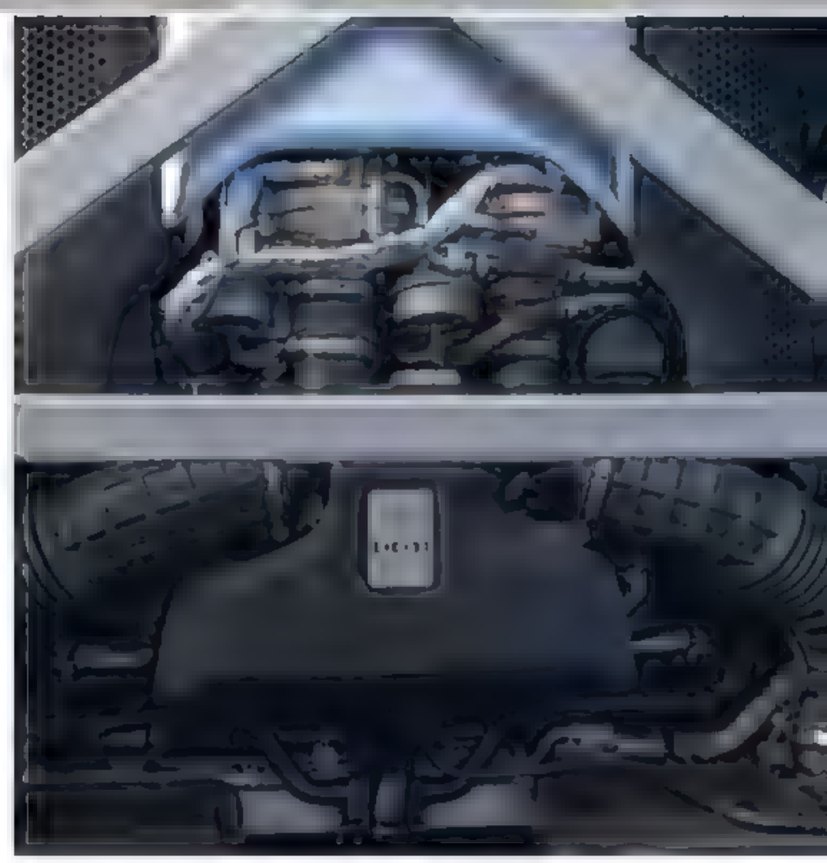
Aston Martin DB11 Volante

Price
£159,900

Engine
503bhp 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8

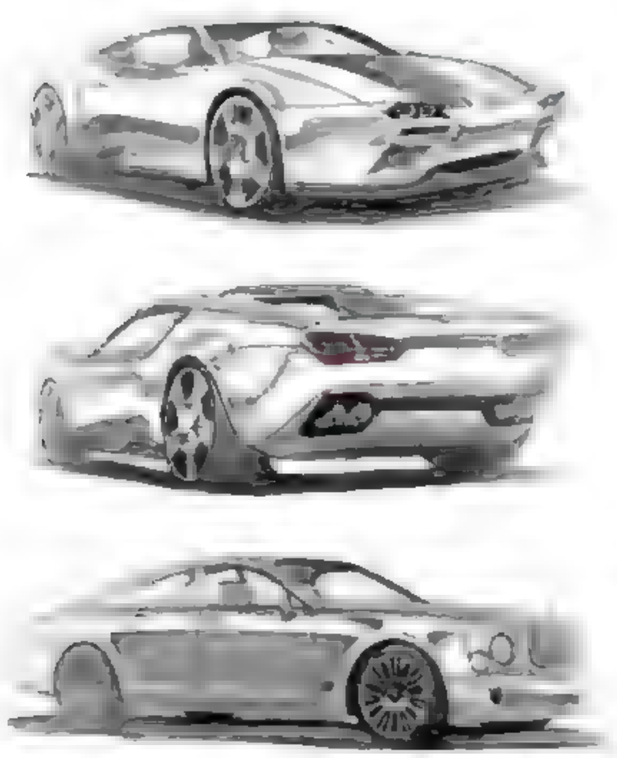
Performance
0-62mph, 4.1 seconds; top speed, 187mph

Contact
astonmartin.com



of hips. And what hips they are. The slimline "light blade" tail lights look more cohesive now too. The bonnet, meanwhile, consists of a single piece of aluminium: a remarkable example of engineered craftsmanship. The Volante's eight-layer acoustic canvas soft-top can be lowered in 14 seconds, at speeds up to 31mph, and it takes 16 seconds to raise it. It's also been stress-tested to the point of oblivion, compressing ten years' use into a single month, in a weather chamber that synthesises the worst conditions on Earth. If it leaks, ask for your money back.

Losing the roof hurts a car's structural rigidity, so Aston's engineers have reinforced the chassis (it's measured



+ Ares Design and the war on mediocrity

Italian car design is rooted in the classic *carrozzeria* (coachbuilding) era of the Thirties, Forties and Fifties. Ares Design is channelling much of that spirit while playing to the very contemporary desires of the new global rich for something no one else has. "The future of customisation can go much further than stitching and trim," says former Lotus boss Dany Bahar. "Coachbuilding isn't some strange extraterrestrial thing. It's something you can really do."

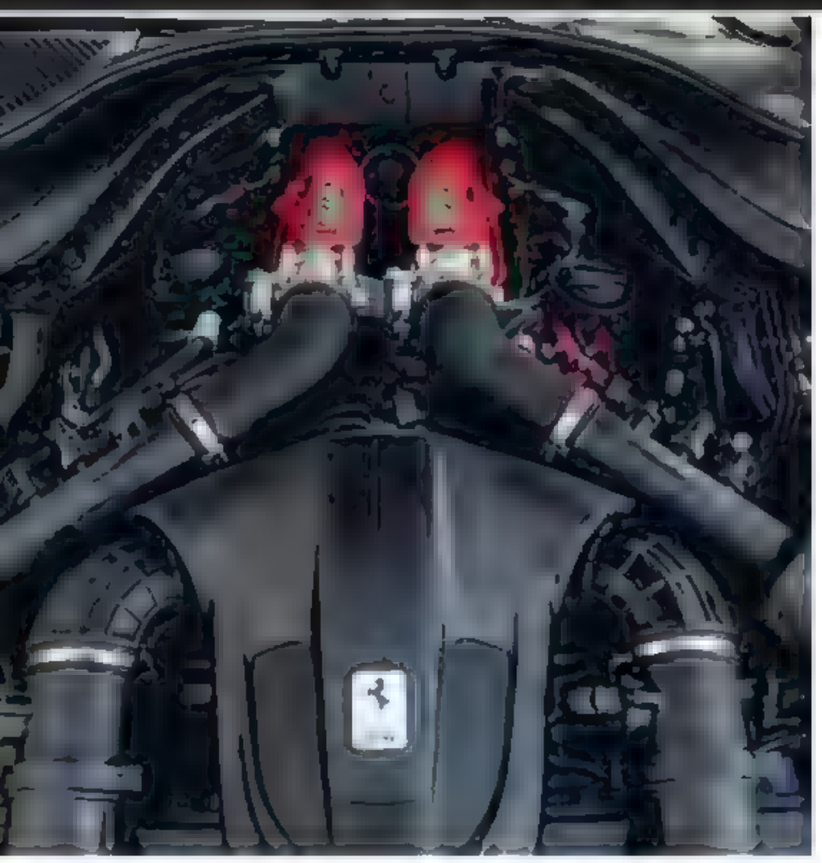
Housed in an immaculate 18,000-sq-metre former Fiat and Alfa Romeo dealership, Bahar and his main partner Waleed Al Ghafari – a telecommunications entrepreneur – have already delivered more than 150 project vehicles. Plans are in place to grow the workforce beyond the 110 people already employed.

BMW, Ferrari, Jaguar Land Rover and McLaren all have thriving special projects divisions, but Ares goes all out to indulge its clients' car design fantasies, though for rather less cash than the big OEMs charge. Although money is likely no object for this sort of demographic, around £600,000 is the top end of the spend here. Nothing is off limits: Ares has created a carbon fibre-rebodied Mercedes G-Class 4x4, called X-Raid; there's an impressively engineered Bentley Mulsanne coupé; and a Tesla Model S Shooting Brake is under construction. Best of all, though, is a reimagining of the characterful Seventies De Tomaso Pantera supercar, based on a Lamborghini Huracán platform.

"The real value here is to make the customer happy with the car he or she has designed," Bahar says. "We help them realise their dream and there's a rising demand for that. It's not a rational investment, it's an emotional one." JB

aresdesign.com

The Ferrari Portofino is lighter and more powerful than its predecessor, the California



in newton metres by degree... don't ask). On the Alpes-Maritimes and Route Napoléon, the Volante remains composed. And, grand tourer or not, this is one quick car. The Volante is powered by a Mercedes-AMG-sourced 503bhp 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8, so it's good for 62mph in 4.1 seconds and a top speed of 187mph. Neither of these time-honoured increments are particularly relevant here, though, and the Volante is at its best somewhere in between. This is a sweeping, elegant motor car, almost old-fashioned in its glamour and poise. But that *soupçon* of grit was just the ticket.

Ferrari is chasing that too. In Italian, it's called *grintoso* and the new Portofino, Ferrari's rival for the DB11 Volante, has been infused with this mysterious essence. Well, it needed something. Even company insiders concede that its predecessor, the California, lacked the raw energy and edginess that modern Ferraris are known for. It sold well, mostly to people new to Ferrari, but the California had a pillowy chassis and its folding hardtop roof saddled it with a plus-size backside.

That's been fixed. Ferrari's Centro Stile design squad has delivered a form that looks like a coupé with the roof up and offers all the sensation of a convertible with the roof down. It also has its fair share of the aerodynamic devices all Ferraris need to do their thing and while not as beautiful as the Aston, it firmly eclipses the California.

It's also lighter. *And* much more powerful. An all-new aluminium chassis helps the Portofino reverse the trend for porky cars and smart manufacturing sees the California's 21-piece A-pillar now rendered as just two components. At 1,664kg with fluids, the Portofino weighs 80kg less than the California T. It might not sound like much, but trust me, every single microgram will have caused ructions in Maranello.

It also imbues it with an eagerness the Aston doesn't have. The engine is a reworked version of Ferrari's award-winning 3.9-litre twin turbo V8, good for 591bhp in the Portofino and 561lb ft of torque from 3,000 to 5,250rpm. Old school Ferraris were all about the former, usually accompanied by the most emotive soundtrack in the business. Turbocharging helps deliver the latter, but usually to the detriment of throttle response and linearity. Not on the Portofino. Remember, this is the company's entry-level car – although £166,180 is some baseline – that ushers Ferrari newcomers into the "dream". But the first time you bury the throttle, the horizon will fast-forward into the windscreen with a velocity that is very far from entry-level. It'll do 62mph in 3.5 seconds and 198mph all out, but it's somehow also flexible enough to meander at parking speeds round Monte Carlo's Casino Square. (I can only imagine how good it must sound in Monaco's many tunnels: the exhaust has an electric bypass valve for maximum sonic theatrics.) Like all recent Ferraris, it also rides beautifully, even if the magnetic dampers have been tweaked and the springs beefed up, front and rear.

Yet it's not wholly perfect. Modern Ferraris are amazing experiences, cars that flirt with sensory overload. They're also easy to over-drive, so patience is required. The Portofino's pretty body is much better tied down than the California's, but it can still spring the odd surprise when you're really going for it. The risk-to-reward ratio is part of the deal in a high-performance car, but I expected the Portofino to be a little more nuanced.

It's gorgeous inside. Infotainment is handled by a 10.2in HD touchscreen, with Apple CarPlay connectivity (a disgraceful £2,400 option) and the air con is 25 per cent faster and 50 per cent quieter than before. This stuff matters to the clients, probably as much as 591bhp and the boot in the back. It's bigger and can fit the inevitable golf clubs. There's lots of useful storage space, but the F1-aping multifunction steering wheel is still an acquired taste. (I've yet to acquire it.)

That Ferrari abandoned the California name tells you all you need to know. The Portofino is lighter, faster, much prettier and a nicer place to sit – it's a whole different proposition and a major leap forward. There are brilliant rivals from the likes of Mercedes-AMG, Bentley and Porsche, as well as that seductive British newcomer from Aston Martin. But there is only one Ferrari and now it has added *grintoso*.

The Aston Martin's soupçon of grit is just the ticket

Need to know

Ferrari Portofino

Price
£166,180

Engine
591bhp 3.9-litre twin-turbo V8

Performance
0-62mph, 3.5 seconds; top speed, 198mph

Contact
ferrari.com

CARS

Gerry McGovern's vision of the future

Land Rover's creative lead on why design is key to putting new technology on the roads

Story by **Dylan Jones** Photograph by **Charlie Gray**

Gerry McGovern is a law unto himself. As design director and chief creative officer for Land Rover, he is a hard taskmaster, prescriptive in his demands and unrelenting in his ambitions. Recognised as one of the leading automotive designers in the world, he tends to be one of the industry's most disruptive voices and while he is a modernist at heart, in practice he is a firebrand. In a good way, of course.

Since rejoining Land Rover in 2004 – after stints at Chrysler, Peugeot, Rover and Ford – McGovern has completely reinvented the marque. I visited the Coventry HQ last year and was overwhelmed by the number of vehicles in development. Having said that, McGovern would have been disappointed if I hadn't been impressed; he is as demanding as he is exact.

Gerry McGovern, design director and chief creative operator at Land Rover, London, January 2018

How did you first become interested in technology?
For me, technology is just another tool. I'm interested in design-enabling technology rather than tech for the sake of it. Overcomplexity of technology is an irritant. When somebody engages with a product, they look at it in its totality and, for me, it's about that emotional connection. If tech can elevate and amplify it, then great. Design is the conduit that communicates the brand and its DNA, and tech should facilitate that. Computers allow us to be even more creative by getting things done quicker. You need to embrace technology to elevate the desirability of the product, to make it safer, faster, more modernist.

You seem obsessed with modernism, with honing and refining.
I'm obsessed with reduction, with getting rid of the unnecessary. That was the case with the Velar, particularly the interior, where we deliberately eradicated extraneous design features. I think we have a DNA that is evolving and our inspiration is derived from what's come before, but interpreting it in a way that's relevant today. If those things aren't relevant then don't use them. In the automotive industry, I don't think anyone's harnessed modernism fully. For me, modernism is just a term for not having excessiveness. For example, if I look at some cars, it's like Zorro's been at them, with a line here, a line there, creating total visual confusion. It's a bit like a suit. If you cut it well and the overall proportion is right, you should be fine. If you suddenly put loads of lines and detail over it, you're confusing the message. I feel the same way about architecture. I've never understood why people are content living in a house that was built 200 years ago – why not celebrate the future? Technology has allowed us to develop products that have a sense of looking forward rather than back.

The postmodernism of the Eighties had a detrimental effect on architecture. Was it the same with cars?
No. In the automotive world, design has always played second fiddle to engineering. Design was a big contributor towards product desirability, but I think that the level of creative intellect that's gone into it has maybe not been as sophisticated as it could have been. If you look at the US in the Sixties, they were doing exuberant things. In the Seventies and Eighties, that was watered down. Ultimately, the way a company is set up makes a massive difference to design sensibility and if you've got people running a company who don't recognise the value of design then you aren't going to get good designs. One of the benefits at Land Rover is a recognition of the relevance of design.

'For the Range Rover Velar we eradicated extraneous design features'

Need to know

Gerry McGovern

Studied Industrial design at Coventry University and automotive design at The Royal College Of Art, London.

Career Worked for Chrysler and Peugeot, before joining the Rover Group as lead designer on the MGF and Land Rover Freelander. After a stint at Ford, he rejoined Land Rover in 2004.

Awards Designer Of The Year 2018 at the Festival Automobile International.

How important is theatre in automotive design?
If you take reductionism to the optimum point, you can end up with something sterile. At the end of the day, you are designing an object that has to be relevant. With the Defender, there is a clear view that it has to celebrate its past, but so much has changed since it started. Lifestyle will influence the design and propel it from the original. The trick is to capture the essence of what that vehicle was, but not be oversensitive to what's gone before.

Does the prospect of the electric car increase the design possibilities?
Absolutely. It takes the engine away, so the traditional three- or two-box design is thrown up in the air. It could be that we've got so used to looking at a silhouette that to change it is uncomfortable. People don't buy proportion systems or electrification, they buy products and they need to be desired. Do I want it? This feeling has to last long after you've bought it, too. Do I still desire it? Does it still do what it's supposed to? Am I building that long lasting relationship with it? **GQ**

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for i30 Fastback range: Urban 40.9 (6.9) – 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 61.4 (4.6), Combined 49.6 (5.7) – 54.3 (5.2), CO_2 Emissions 134 - 120g/km. These official NEDC EU test figures are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. Warranty T&Cs apply.

GQ

PRESENTS

CARNABY STYLE WEEKENDER

BRAND NEW AND EXCLUSIVE FOUR-DAY FESTIVAL

From Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 May 2018

FASHION AND LIFESTYLE EVENTS, TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Carnaby.co.uk
@CarnabyLondon
#CarnabyStyleWeekender

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
Danny Lowe

STYLING BY
Holly Roberts

Glasses by MOSCOT
37 Beak Street
Jumper by Albam
23 Beak Street
Shirt by Scotch & Soda
14 Carnaby Street
Watch by Daniel Wellington
24 Carnaby Street
Trousers by The Kooples
30 Carnaby Street
Trainers by Onitsuka Tiger
15 Newburgh Street
CARNABY STYLE WEEKENDER
HUW WEBB
MOSCOT
37 Beak Street
What's your style?
I'd say mainly vintage clothing inspired by music
What makes Carnaby and MOSCOT a great fit?
MOSCOT is a unique brand. We're 103 years old and a fifth-generation independent optician. All our products are classic, iconic and handmade and they feel totally at home in Carnaby with its heritage

CARNABY STYLE WEEKENDER

NUD DUDHIA & CHRIS WHITNEY

BREDDOS TACOS
26 Kingly Street

What's your style?
Nud: Work wear
Chris: Surf and skate style from about ten years ago

Why did you choose Carnaby for Breddos Tacos?
Carnaby has so many different things for so many different people, which contributes to the eclecticism of the whole area. There's a nice community spirit that feels like exactly the type of place relevant to open

Hat, model's own

Hat by **M.C.Overalls**
14A Newburgh Street

Jacket by **Levi's**
51 Carnaby Street

Jacket by **Ben Sherman**
50 Carnaby Street

Shirt by **Pretty Green**
57 Carnaby Street

Shirt by **Albam**
23 Beak Street

Trousers by **Oi Polloi**
1 Marshall Street

Trousers by **Scotch & Soda**
14 Carnaby Street

Socks by **Pretty Green**
57 Carnaby Street

Trainers by **size?**
32-34 Carnaby Street

Shoes by **Dr. Martens**
48 Carnaby Street

CARNABY STYLE WEEKENDER
THEO GAYLE
SIZE?
32-34 Carnaby Street
What's your style?
I grew up in Camden, so it's impossible not to get into punk and Dr. Martens. At the moment my favourite item is definitely this Billionaire Boys Club jacket
Why is Carnaby important to you?
It's unique because of the stores and the people you find here
Hat by The Kooples
30-31 Carnaby Street
Jacket by
Billionaire Boys Club
36 Marshall Street
Jumper by Levi's
51 Carnaby Street
Trousers by Oi Polloi
1 Marshall Street
Trainers by size?
32-34 Carnaby Street
Bag by Levi's
51 Carnaby Street

Ask anyone who works around Carnaby and they'll tell you it's London's most stylish area. Whether you're talking to Breddos Tacos co-owners Nud Dudhia and Chris Whitney or M.C. Overalls' James Scroggs, Huw Webb from MOSCOT or Theo Gayle from size?, they all agree that the 14 streets of Carnaby are the place to be.

What's more, there's never been a better time to pay a visit than from Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 May for the new four-day event, the **Carnaby Style Weekender**.

As well as in store events, discounts, promotions and style advice there will also be an exclusive Carnaby hub with a slick co-working space. The hub will host free creative workshops and panel discussions including a cocktail masterclass with Breddos Tacos and a panel with tips for getting into the fashion industry from the likes of Finlay & Co. and M.C. Overalls' founders. There will also be a Jamón Ibérico workshop with Dehesa, complete with sherry and bar snacks and a collage masterclass with London's coolest souvenir store, We Built This City, and Collage Club London. *GQ* will also be talking all things style in the Carnaby hub on Thursday's launch evening, so head down to hear more from our Style and Grooming Director Teo van den Broeke and our Retail Editor Holly Roberts. If you'd like the chance to take part in a workshop or join a panel discussion then sign up for your free space at Carnaby.co.uk. But be quick! Ballots will close one week before each workshop takes place.

That's just the start. Across the weekend there will be exclusive deals and events on offer everywhere from the flagship stores of Carnaby Street and Foubert's Place to the independent heritage brands in the Newburgh Quarter and the amazing food and drink offerings in three floor emporium Kingly Court and beyond. All of your favourite brands will be getting involved,»

CARNABY
STYLE
WEEKENDER
JAMES SCROGGS
M.C.OVERALLS
14A Newburgh Street
What's your style?
The last turkey in the shop. I buy the clothes everyone else leaves beh nd, and tnat excites me
Why is Carnaby important to you and your business?
Carnaby alwa,s fee s ike t's got ts arms open It's the best o Brt sn h gn street t a so the most b are of Lo
Hat mode s own
Overa is by M.C.Overalls
14A Newburgh Street
Jacket by Filson
9 Newburgh Street

» starting with a party thrown by Jack Wills on Thursday night and continuing with exclusive customisation from the likes of Ben Sherman, New Era and Onitsuka Tiger. Trend-setting barbershop Johnny's Chop Shop will be celebrating their second birthday by throwing a party with a DJ, live music and drinks. As for cocktails, Breddos Tacos, Dirty Bones and Señor Ceviche are all serving brand new drinks exclusively for the event.

Where else could you pick up new threads from Paul Smith and Albam, footwear from G.H. Bass & Co., Dr. Martens and Vans and then have the chance to refuel at The Good Egg, Bread Ahead or Le Bab? You can also enjoy discounts in selected stores over the four days and have the chance to win an exclusive goodie bag. Don't just take our word for it – to really understand why Carnaby is London's most stylish area, you have to experience it for yourself. For more information on everything that's planned across the four days, visit Carnaby.co.uk and follow @CarnabyLondon for all the latest event updates #CarnabyStyleWeekender

Watch the story behind the characters of Carnaby at gq-magazine.co.uk

WIN A GENTLEMAN'S DAY OUT IN CARNABY

We're giving you the chance to win £250 to spend in Carnaby stores of your choice, a trip to Pankhurst London for a Deluxe Shave, and dinner for two in a Carnaby restaurant of your choice

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Terms and conditions apply.

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4. Jacket by **Paul Smith**, £895 **5.** Watch by **Daniel Wellington**, £119 **6.** Trainers by **TOMS**, £75 **7.** Cap by **New Era**, £20
8. Shirt by **Jack Wills**, £59 95 **9.** Sunglasses by **Finlay & Co.**, £120 **10.** Jumper by **Diesel,** £45
11. T-Shirt by **Laurel Wreath by Fred Perry**, £60 **12.** Boots by **G.H. Bass & Co.**, £190 **13.** Jacket by **Barbour Heritage**, £159
14. Watch by **G-SHOCK**, £799 **15.** Bag by **A.P.C.**, £230

‘Harrison Ford said, “If anyone asks, tell them I told you everything you need to know”’

Jacket by **Giorgio Armani**, £2,200. armani.com. Watch, Alden’s own

Go Solo

GQ marks two major springtime starts: the opening of Giorgio Armani's latest London boutique and Alden Ehrenreich's breakout role as Han Solo in Star Wars' first ever 'origin film'. Here, we unite the force of Italian style with the new young rogue of a galaxy far, far away

Millennial falcon Alden Ehrenreich takes the pilot seat for Solo: A Star Wars Story

Story by **John Naughton**

Photographs by **Randall Mesdon**

Styling by **Luke Day**

Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some make a goofy home movie that impresses Steven Spielberg when he sees it at a bat mitzvah and never look back.

This is Alden Ehrenreich's origin story, a tale of preposterous good fortune, the kind of yarn studios used to spin to sell their stars, but which actually happened to the cinema-obsessed 14-year-old and saw Spielberg land him an agent and give him a unique entrée into Hollywood. Now that he's starring as the eponymous lead in *Solo: A Star Wars Story*, a part he won over 3,000 hopefuls, it's one more tale that will be absorbed into the legend of the world's most successful film franchise.

In truth, there is still something of the wide-eyed 14-year-old about Ehrenreich, now 28, as he reflects on his career to date. "Every time I have a conversation like this," he muses, "and start putting it into order of what's gone on in my life, it's beyond my wildest dreams."

The spin-off will likely be the year's biggest film and Ehrenreich finds himself alongside a white-hot cast featuring new characters, such as Qi'ra, played by *Game Of Thrones'* Emilia Clarke, and some younger iterations of existing ones, such as *Atlanta*'s Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian. There's even a droid voiced by *Fleabag*'s Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

Ehrenreich doesn't know, nor does he want to know, what led him to be cast as the young Han Solo, but it's a fair guess that it's this blend of innocence and experience. He did six screen tests before learning that the role was his – "I was very much ready to not get it." Like every other hopeful, he was awestruck by the Millennium Falcon, but it was a smaller detail that struck home.

"I think my third screen test was on the Falcon," he recalls. "It was in costume and I put on these black jeans with the Corellian stripe, which is the red thing on the side of the trousers and is iconically *Star Wars*. I remember putting on those jeans and thinking, 'Oh, wow. This really is *Star Wars*.'"

Immediately he was through the looking glass into the strange *Star Wars* galaxy: radio silence about the part for three months and then, when it leaked to the press, outright denial. "People were coming up to me in restaurants and congratulating me and I had to be like, 'Sorry I don't know what you're talking about.'" Then the unveiling in front of thousands of fans at a *Star Wars* convention in London before a sit-down with original Han Solo Harrison Ford.

"He said, 'If anyone asks, tell them I told you everything you need to know. And that you can't tell anyone what that was.'"

Naturally, he's still adjusting to the demands that come with the role. Talking about the films that influenced *Solo*, he namechecks the classic Newman and Redford Western *Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid*.

"There's a lot of cinema history in this movie," he enthuses. "There's a *great* card game."

There's been a deal of speculation about whether the film would contain a card game in which Han Solo wins the Millennium Falcon from Lando Calrissian. Seems like it does. Or maybe not. "I can't say *for sure* that there is a card game," he laughs. "It's like being in the CIA. It's like *All The President's Men*. Blink twice if you are in distress!"

Solo hasn't been without its own moments of distress. Original directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller were unceremoniously defenestrated in July last year, four months into principal photography, to be replaced by Ron Howard. But for Ehrenreich it was about retaining focus and trying not to corpse when he caught costar Woody Harrelson's eye: "Even in scenes that weren't particularly funny, we could pretty easily lose it." Trying to get his head round being No1 on the call sheet: "On a good day you think, 'Great', on a bad one you think, 'Oh shit!'" And trying not to feel jealous of his light-on-lines Chewbacca-playing Finnish costar, Joonas Suotamo. "There were certain days where I was like, 'OK, I've got to learn that and I've got to learn that and that.' And Joonas would say, 'Oh, yeah? Well, I think that's the bit where I've got to go *wuuuuuuuhhh*!'"

Yes, Ehrenreich has had that slice of fortune in a career that has already seen him work with the Coen brothers (*Hail, Caesar!*) and Woody Allen (*Blue Jasmine*), but he's definitely run with it. After bit parts in TV shows such as *CSI* and *Supernatural*, he was the best thing in *Beautiful Creatures* and stole *Hail, Caesar!* as the likeable, lasso-wielding cowboy actor Hobie Doyle, memorably wrangling the line "Would that it were so simple" with Ralph Fiennes to great comic effect. George Clooney said, "It's so much fun to watch how hard he works and how effortless it seems."

His Hollywood apprenticeship began in the womb, as his forename comes from his film-buff parents seeing *Field Of Dreams* and naming him after its director, Phil Alden Robinson. An only child, he was forever putting on plays and by third grade he'd written a melodrama – "Girl on the train tracks kind of thing." At 13 he was performing *Our Town* – "Still probably my favourite play" – at school. By that time he was also making the kind of home videos that ultimately got him noticed by Hollywood's biggest player.

His first film was *Tetro* and he hung out with its director, Francis Ford Coppola, for months. "I remember he said, 'A movie is like a magic trick and if it works then everything works and if it doesn't then nothing works.'"

It was the same with another Hollywood legend, Warren Beatty. "I met Warren when I was 19, right after *Tetro* and I shot the movie [*Rules Don't Apply*] when I was 24," he remembers. "I'd go and have dinner with him for, like, nine hours, so I could write a short book about the things I learnt from him."

He remembers Coppola telling him to stay innocent. No mean trick in the film industry. "He meant keep believing in things that might seem outlandish," reflects Ehrenreich, now on the cusp of geniune international fame. "I try to keep that belief going."

'I put on the striped jeans and thought, "Oh, wow. This really is Star Wars"'

SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY IS OUT ON 25 MAY
GIORGIO ARMANI, SLOANE STREET, LONDON SW1
ARMANI.COM

£1,800. Shirt
sers, £77
All by **Giorgio Armani**
armani.com. Scarf, st
own. Watch, Alden's ow

‘It’s like being in the CIA... Blink twice if you’re in distress’
Jacket, £3,550. Shirt, £360. Tie, £160. Trousers, £680. Belt, £220. All by **Giorgio Armani**. armani.com

Coat, £2,000. T-shirt, £185. Trousers, £680. All by **Giorgio Armani**. armani.com

Grooming **Sonia Lee at Exclusive Artists using Oribe**

Photography assistant **Alan Boling**

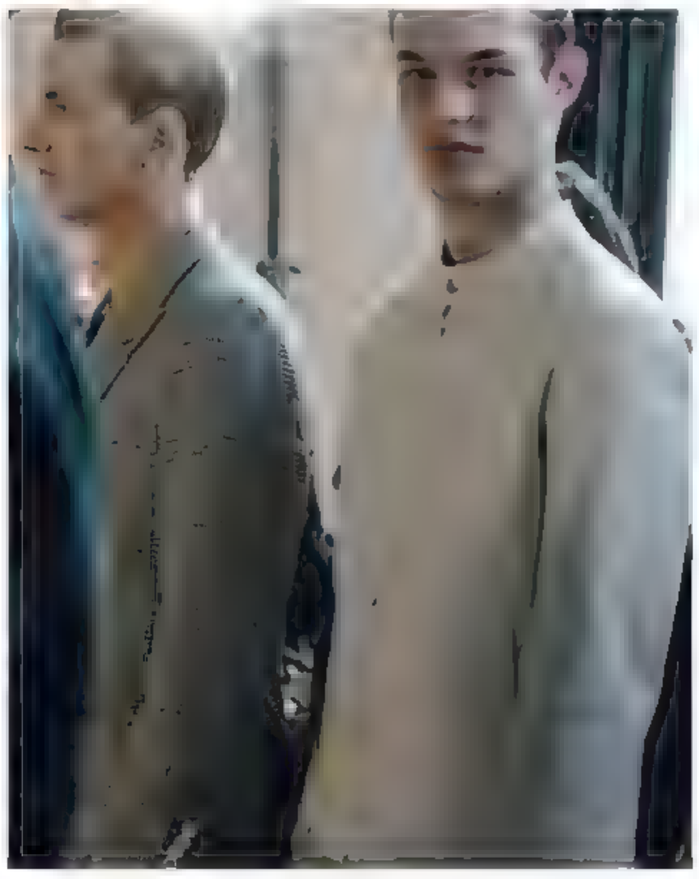
Digital technician **Hesh Hipp GQ**

ACUT

Dutti's new Spring Summer 18 collection
eather tailoring into a stylish new direc

ABOV

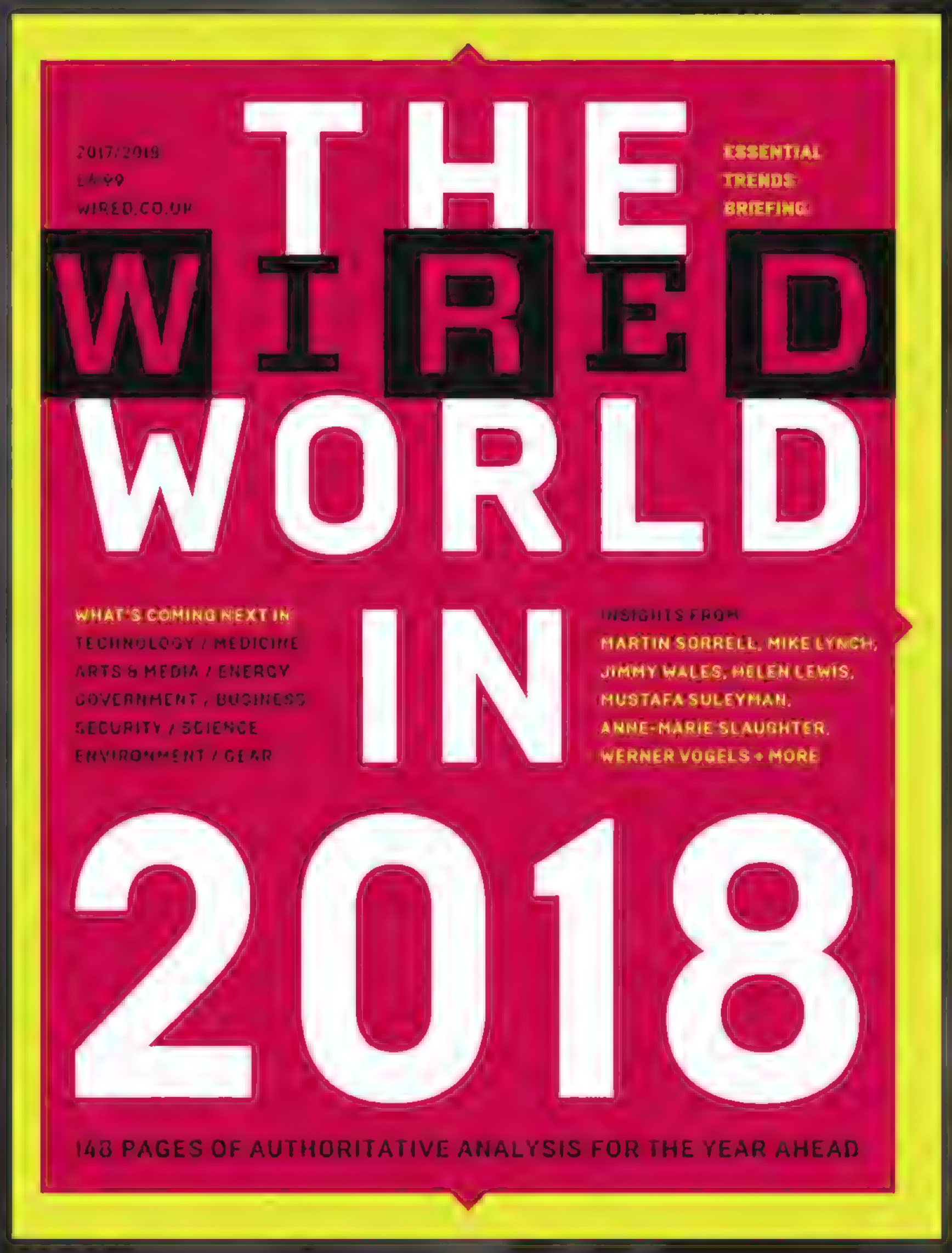
The new Spring Summer 18 collection from Spanish tailoring brand Massimo Dutti was inspired by the open expanses of the American southwest. The models, resplendent in ultra-modern summer tailoring, walked a sandy runway wearing sandals and espadrilles on their feet. The palette of the collection was inspired as much by the colours of a Texan sunset (there were deep blue grandad collar shirts, the colour of the dwindling dusk and blazers in moody aubergine, the hue of a barely lit desert) as they were, more literally, by the colour of sand. There were suits, bombers and pleated trousers in many shades of camel, dust and dune. The whole vibe was very Californian-vegan-food-store-owner, and all the more desirable for it. Tailoring, though beautifully cut, was loose and relaxed. Double-breasted jackets were designed to be worn open, smartly cut trousers were teamed with billowing shirts and oversized cardigans, while accessories in the shape of perfect leather backpacks and fondle-friendly pockets were designed for an easy nomadic lifestyle. The star pieces? The audience left the show in desperate need of one of Dutti's new suede field jackets, finished with roomy bellows pockets. Field jackets, after all, are big news for this season, given that they can easily be worn in both smart and more casual looks. Other pieces worthy of note included a perfect double-breasted suit in bright white, while the trainers which shod many of the models' feet looked on point and summer wardrobe ready.



Photographs **Blender and Tommy Ton**

The palette of the collection was inspired by the colours of the Texan sunset

It's time to make the world a smarter place.



Start here.

Available now at WHSmith and on the WIRED iOS app

GQ Life

+ Health & Fitness + Wellbeing + Food & Drink + Travel + Grooming

A moustache is for life, not just for Movember. From pencil lip-liners to the full walrus soup-strainer, it's time to shape up your top-lip topiary – page 132

Want to be fitter, faster, sharper, stronger? Of course you do. **To test yourself, your limits and your world?** No doubt. With all the answers to the questions that count – what to eat (and where), where to go (and how), how to live (and why), **your very best self starts right here**

Edited by **Bill Prince & Paul Henderson**

Bear Grylls #33

Don't hate the haters

In his farewell column for GQ, the survival expert and chief scout on the importance of good examples in a world where prejudice often prevails

The world is moving fast. In many ways that's a great thing. On the other hand, it can present challenges. But one of the great hopes I have, as technology allows us to connect more easily with people from all over the globe, is that the world develops a greater acceptance of others and for those who choose to live their lives differently to us.

Despite some of the recent shocking allegations from the film industry, it is clear that much progress has been made in terms of equality of gender, race, sexuality and religion. Still, we shouldn't forget the ugly history we have in these areas, which, in some cases, has caused division, pain and war – and the fight isn't over.

We still encounter racism, sexism, religious intolerance and homophobia in our lives. It might come from elderly relatives whose sensibilities are not as modern as we'd like them to be. It might come from work colleagues. Our children might encounter it among their peer group. Sadly, it is a part of life and it sometimes comes from unlikely places. I know one man, for example, who is one of the kindest, most considerate people I've ever met, yet he also happens to be a terrible homophobe. His homophobia is so extreme that he refuses to invite a gay person to join his family for supper. He's wrong, plain and simple. But how should we all confront this situation both effectively and respectfully?

We shouldn't forget our ugly history. The fight isn't over

Our instinct might be to want to deal with it immediately and, in the heat of the moment, to go for the jugular in an effort to force them to mend their ways, but that can be a mistake. Sometimes you can't fight fire with fire.

Don't get me wrong. If at work, for example, you encounter any form of hatred or bullying, you have a responsibility to call it out or at least report it. It's unacceptable behaviour and dealing with it properly is a sign of strength. As with so many things in life, change is most effective when it comes from seeing the example of others. Sure, if you feel comfortable with a very close friend about confronting the issue and gently talking it through, that's fine. But in general, being militant in your own beliefs can be just as damaging and divisive as the attitude you're trying to correct.

That's why, even though I would never endorse the views of my homophobic friend, I am also respectful of his own home and will be as sensitive and respectful to him as to anyone else.

The most powerful weapon for change is always love and acceptance shown through example. It's about loving the person, but not necessarily their views. I also believe that communities rooted in positive values inherently combat intolerance. The Scouts, for example, do this so well. A founding principle of Scouting is respect for others. Although this might sound normal today, back in 1906 it was pretty radical.

When we live alongside people, we soon learn that being of a different race, sexuality, gender or religion does not make a person alien or scary. In fact, it is our differences that often give us our strength.

This is why it is no surprise to see the LGBTQ+ community embracing the Scouting movement. This is happening because they know Scouting to be an environment where they find respect and acceptance.

Similarly, there is an unprecedented growth in the number of Muslim teenagers joining the Scouts, because Muslim parents know that it is a safe, accepting community where their daughters and sons can come to experience adventure and create bonds with other young people from many different walks of life.

These are positive results born out of positive example. So let us lead in this fashion and be a light to all around us, whether at work, at home or at play. None of us should define others by their gender, faith, sexuality or colour. We are all so much more than those things.

It is our actions, our words and our attitudes that define us. So if we are to promote respect and tolerance, then first and foremost we must do our best to walk the talk ourselves. People will notice and that example will speak more than any amount of words. **beargrylls.com**

+ Action camera by Bear Grylls **A new perspective**

For those about to rock climb, paraglide or eat a sheep's eyeball, this is the camera for you. **The Bear Grylls IP68** waterproof action camera can be used for video and stills and features built-in touchscreen controls and is smartphone-enabled. It also comes with an extensive accessory kit, including multiple mounts and cases plus a folding-handle tripod, all bundled together in a water-resistant carry case. Don't leave base camp without it. **£130. beargrylls.com/store**

Celebrity Life Coach

The GQ Pep Talk with...

Floyd Mayweather

The pound-for-pound boxing king delivers the five knockout pieces of advice that made him 'The Best Ever'

In his words: "Throughout my family trials and tribulations – mother on drugs, father going to prison – I always tried to stay positive. Thanks to boxing, I was able to put my parents in a situation where they could live a great life and not have to do things they had done in the past. And that was all because my dad taught me an art and I was able to take it to the next level."

In other words: If you believe in your own ability and have the right motivation, you can use adversity to bring the best out in yourself.

In his words: "When I look back on the 1996 Olympics [where he lost in a controversial decision], I am happy I received a bronze medal. I loved it! That is what God wanted. He had bigger plans for me. That's why I'm where I'm at. In the boxing ring, when it's all on the line, it only counts when it's for the money."

In other words: Turn a setback into a positive. By acknowledging and rationalising disappointment, you can move on and set new goals.

In his words:

"Whenever I was in a tough fight I always remembered to keep my composure, to stick to the game plan. My opponent could be three, four rounds ahead – we've still got eight, nine more to go. I'll get you... No matter what. I'll get you."

In other words: When you're under pressure, an emotional overreaction is never helpful. By staying calm and refusing to panic, you'll perform better.

In his words: "I always used to take it one fight at a time. I never focused on the past or the future, just what was right there in front of me. You never know what can happen in life... so take it one step at a time."

In other words: Live in the moment and always focus on the task at hand.

In his words: "I am the biggest [pay-per-view] attraction of all time. But there are a lot of people behind the scenes that don't get enough credit. They make sure everything is comfortable for me to perform the way I do."

In other words: Be it friends or family, surround yourself with good people. To be the best, you need the best team. **Alfie Baldwin**

Big Bang Unico TMT Carbon Gold by **Hublot**, £23,400. hublot.com

← Big Bang Unico TMT Carbon Gold by Hublot

Watch designers take their influences wherever they can be found, but few will have thought to transfer the codes of a boxer's trunks to a timepiece. That Hublot has done so is testament both to its "dare to be different" attitude (it launched the Big Bang in 2005, pointedly targeting high net worth high achievers) and a deep alliance with the kind of exceptionalism Floyd Mayweather represents. The first "billion-dollar boxer" now has the beater to match: his own limited-edition Big Bang Unico TMT Carbon Gold featuring a unique powdered gold/carbon-fibre composite 45mm case. Its clear caseback is inscribed with the champ's undisputed claim that he is "The Best Ever". Bill Prince

GQ.co.uk

This month on

Drive

...away in a new car with the help of our editors and reviewers, who've tested everything from the Bugatti Chiron to the Caterham Seven Sprint, all on our YouTube channel.

Strap

Watch

...our daily Instagram Stories from fashion weeks around Europe, backstage at the UK's hottest film and music events and behind the scenes at *GQ*'s biggest photoshoots.

Photograph **Greg Williams**

See

Deep dive

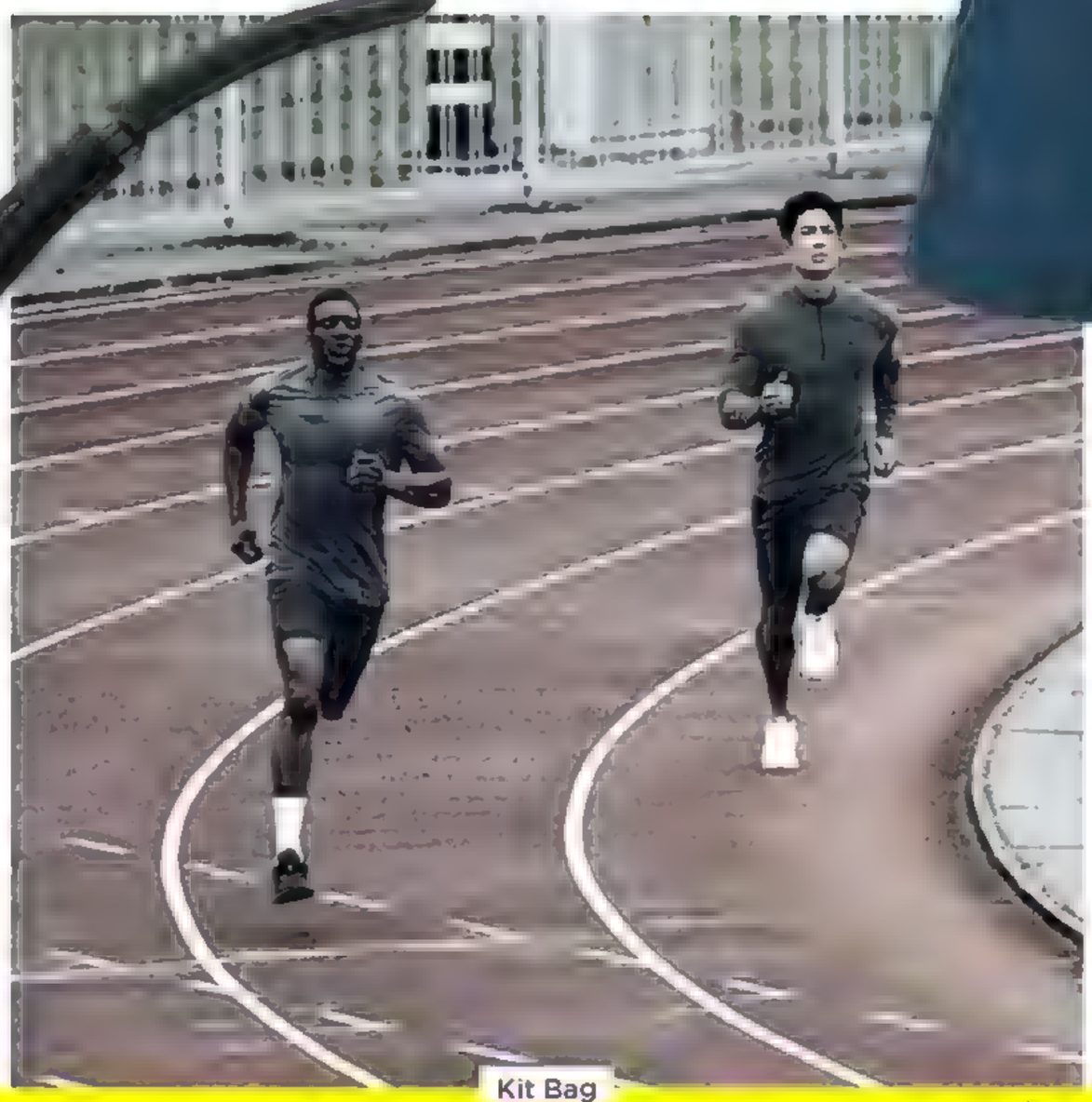
...into the social media phenomenon of last year's Fyre Festival failure. GQ.co.uk News And Features Editor Anna Conrad was there and spoke to bands, visitors and organisers to find out how it went so wrong.

Running socks
by Stance

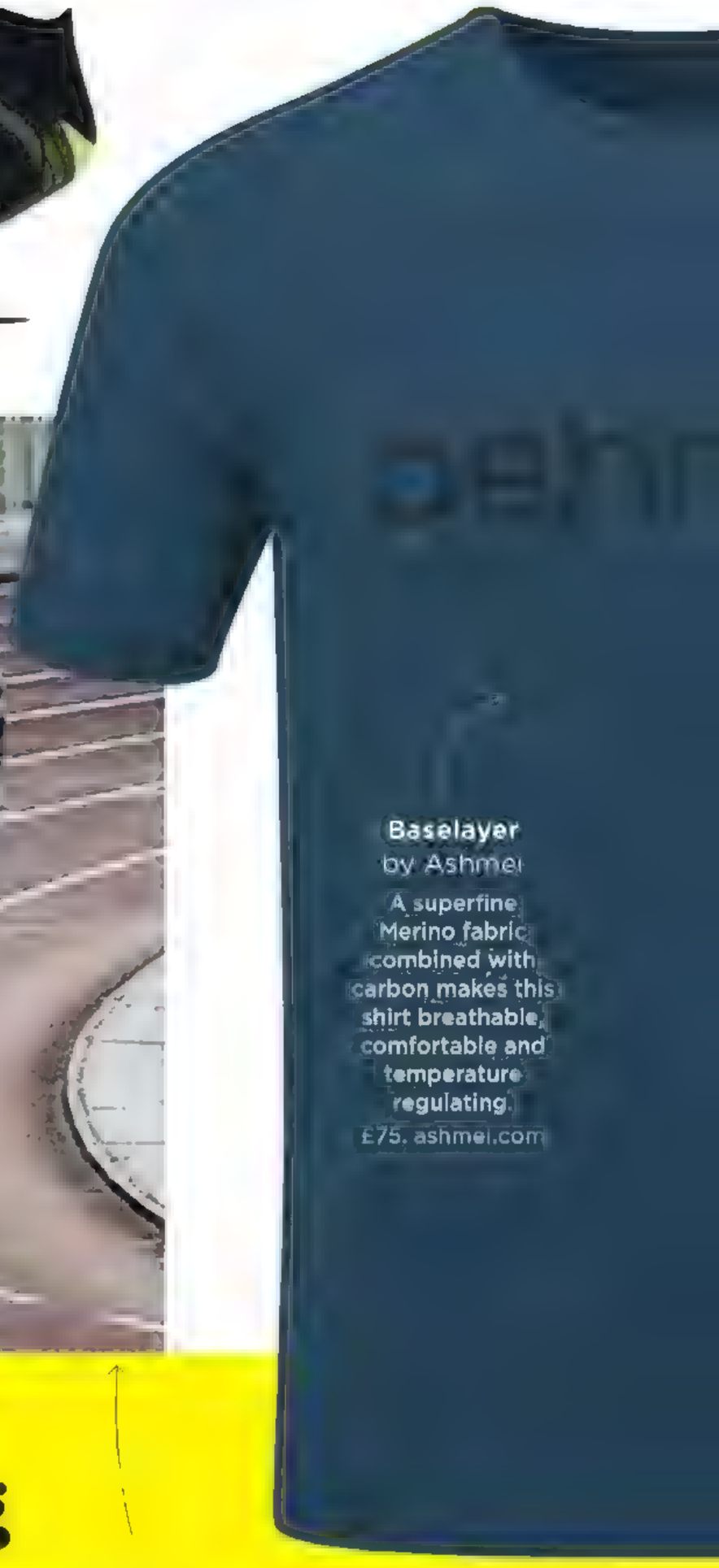
Made using a new fibre treatment, Stance socks are resilient, accelerate wicking and offer integrated arch support.
From £13 a pair. stance.com

Vi headphones
by Lifebeam

Headphones with personality, this headset comes with an AI PT who can coach you through your running requirements.
£200. getvi.com



Kit Bag

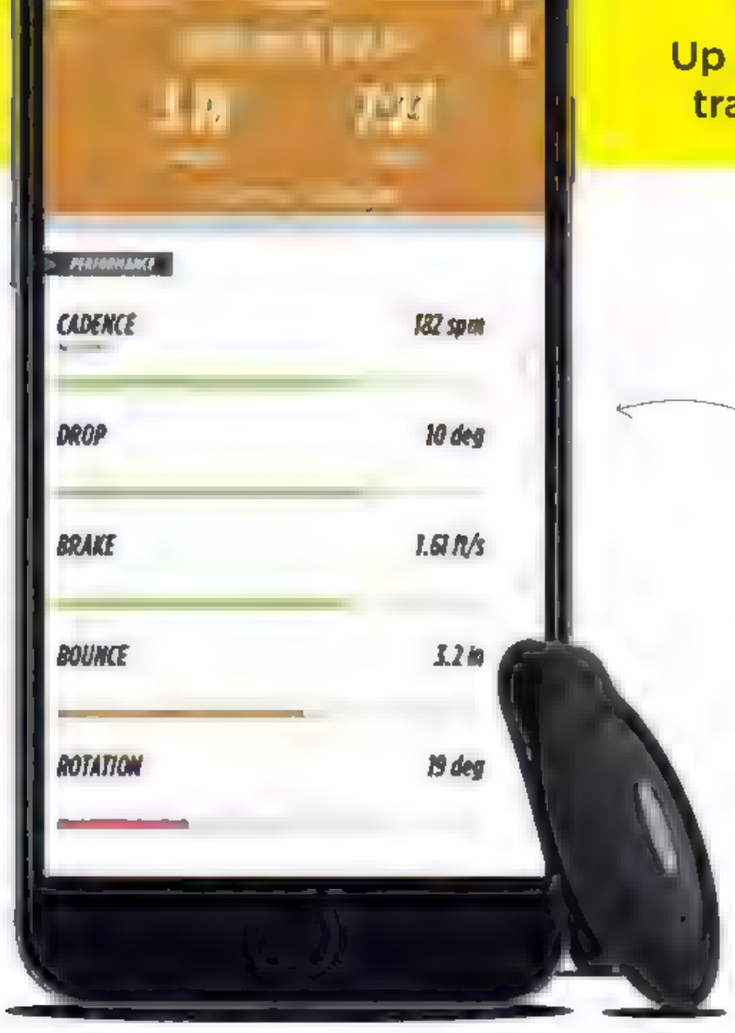


Baselayer
by Ashmei

A superfine Merino fabric combined with carbon makes this shirt breathable, comfortable and temperature regulating.
£75. ashmei.com

Hit the ground running

Up your gear and gadgets game with the latest track stars set to put you through your paces



Lumo Run

A clip-on run sensor (and app) that measures cadence, pace, bounce and pelvic rotation. Ninety-seven per cent of users claim it has improved their performance.
£90. At amazon.co.uk

React trainers
by Nike

Nike's entry into the energy-boosting trainer market is a lightweight, durable and ultra-reliable super-shoe.
£130. nike.com

Clothing bundle
by Castore

Premium British brand Castore has produced the ultimate ergonomic, seamless, environmentally friendly running kit.
£369. castore.co.uk

Is your office NSFW (not safe for women)?

Sexual harassment at work remains a serious problem. Worse yet, a frightening majority of cases are ignored or used against those who speak out. It's time we all promoted change

The Me Too tsunami hit suddenly, seemingly from nowhere, wave after wave of furious storms wreaking havoc on the status quo. The allegations against Weinstein, thanks to testimonies from a host of women in October 2017, emboldened many more revelations, spreading internationally, across all fields, much concerning abuse of power, sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. The big-brass scandals – Uber, Pixar, NBC, Fox – got the headlines, but the trickle-down came quickly too.

It hadn't come from nowhere, of course – the hashtag itself had been around for years and the movement had been brewing for decades, centuries. At everydaysexism.com, Laura Bates has, since 2012, been providing an outlet for women to share stories of what they have been subjected to on a day-to-day basis. It has accrued hundreds of thousands of entries. In 2016, Bates teamed up with the Trades Union Congress for an online YouGov polling of 1,553 women about sexual harassment. Of those, 52 per cent said they had experienced it at work, including 63 per cent of women aged 18-24. And the figures, says Bates, are very likely conservative indications, as so many women feel unable to report their experiences.

"The even more eye-opening statistic for me from the report," says Bates, "was that when women said they had reported what had happened, nearly three-quarters of them said nothing changed as a result and another 16 per cent on top of that said they were actually treated worse as a result of having reported it. So nearly 90 per cent of all women who gather up the courage to report this in the workplace have no positive outcome from it. And what that suggests is that the people they're reporting it to are dealing with it very badly. Either they don't get it or are trying deliberately to brush it under the carpet, to minimise it, to silence women. We need to deal with that."

A huge part of the problem, and something that Bates' site has brought more attention to, is instinctive responses to casual sexism, which studies have found can be just as detrimental as overt and physical attacks. Microaggressive behaviour – everyday slights, which consistently gnaw away at the targets – is often dismissed and belittled. On *Have I Got News For You* last November, Ian Hislop was powerfully rebuked by Jo Brand for stating that some recent Westminster allegations were not "high-level crime". "It doesn't have to be high-level for women to feel under siege in somewhere like the House Of Commons," said Brand. "Actually, for women, if you're constantly being harassed, even in a small way, that builds up and that wears you down."

of women aged 18-24 said they had experienced sexual harassment at work

"Women in many workplaces experience sexist jokes and comments, which are then excused as banter," adds Bates. "If you aren't aware of the wider problems going on, then it's easy to say those are more isolated incidents, and think, 'Why would anyone make a fuss about that?' But, of course, if it feeds into a wider culture, if it's a joke, but you're hearing that joke ten times a day, and the woman has been told that she won't be considered for a promotion because she's a maternity risk, has discovered that she's earning 30 per cent less than her male colleagues doing the same job... all of that feeds into a more complex structure."

Worse, the Me Too backlash and a resistance to change from some quarters has been vicious. "I've heard reports of women individually coming up against that in workplaces," says Bates. "They are experiencing sexual harassment from people actually namechecking the current movement, saying, 'Did you really think all of that was going to change anything?' Some individuals will fight very hard against it, because they will see it as an erosion of their rights and privileges, when it isn't – equality isn't about taking anything away from one group, it's simply about making sure that the same rights, dignity and freedoms are available to all groups."

What we need, she says, above all the talk, is structural changes to be enforced. Organisations need to tackle it from the top down, with proper reporting procedures put in place. The prominence of the public conversation right now is helping and we need to act on it, not turn a blind eye. As individuals, we should challenge what we see, stand up and speak out, question our employers, ask what policies and processes are in place. "There is a lot that we can all do to shift the narrative that this is just normal," says Bates. "If enough of us respond in that way, it doesn't only send a message to victims that we will support them to take it forward, it also sends a message to perpetrators: people aren't going to laugh along any more. Because when people respond to things in that way and react to what we've done in a way that's shocked or unimpressed, it's very quickly stopped us from doing them."

This also applies to male sexual harassment, too, she stresses – men who have experienced such behaviour can be stigmatised differently but no less destructively, and the sea change will give us all the same rights, and even make for better business. "It's not just about protecting women from harassment in the workplace, or including diversity on boards," says Bates. "It's about progress. It's in everyone's interests for this to be solved." **Alex Godfrey**

Primal Training

The wood chop

Pull, push, smash and grab your way to Flintstone fitness. This month: a move to fire up your core...

The wood chop with dumbbell, weight disc or rock is a whole-body functional conditioning exercise that boosts shoulder, spinal, pelvic, hip and knee stability. The exercise improves mental focus, movement quality and performance, and transfers well to any sport. Wood chops force your entire core into action to keep good form during explosive whole-body rotation and places specific emphasis on the oblique muscles.

Story by **Jonathan Goodair** Photographs by **Ben Riggott**

Directions

Start position: holding rock

1. Standing tall and with good posture, step the left foot back into lunge position so the right knee is over the right heel and the left heel is lifted.
2. Bracing with your core, flex forward a little at the hips. Do not round the upper back – the spine should be long and shoulders wide with a slightly tucked pelvis (pull in the lower abdomen and squeeze the glutes).
3. Inhale, turning the upper body slightly to the right, moving the rock to the outside of the knee
4. In one smooth action begin to exhale, tighten the core and, leading with the right hip, turn the whole body to the left, rotating hips, legs and upper body through 180 degrees to face the opposite direction, pressing the left heel down and raising the right heel. As you rotate, raise your arms so the rock comes towards the left shoulder, with the spine coming to vertical.
5. At the top of the movement take a quick breath.
6. As you begin to exhale, in one smooth motion reverse the movement. Leading with the right hip, return to the start position. Repeat.

Work quickly and smoothly, being mindful to maintain alignment between your pelvis and lower back.

jonathangoodair.com

Grooming **Samantha Cooper at Carol Hayes Management** Model: **Bradley Simmonds (@bradleysimmonds)**

Shorts, £35. Trainers, £160. Both by **Adidas**. adidas.co.uk

15

Perform 15 reps each side with 60 seconds' rest for three sets in total.

Isn't it time you tried... cannabis oil?

This all-natural elixir has been legal to buy in the UK since last year and can be used to treat a variety of cond tions, from anxiety and depression through to joint pain and MS. Nonaddictive, as well as anti-inflammatory, it also encourages the release of dopamine and serotonin. Just say yes to CBD (cannabidiol). **PH**

From £20 to £400 a bottle. cbdoilsuk.com

The GQ Preview: May

Edited by **Holly Roberts**

Bringing you the very latest in fashion, grooming, watches, news and exclusive events

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1 ▶ T-Shirt by **Napapijri**, £70. napapijri.com **2** ▶ Jacket by **Ben Sherman**, £95. bensherman.co.uk
3 ▶ Maximum Hydrator Water Gel Concentra by **Clinique**, £36. clinique.co.uk **4** ▶ Coat by **Mackintosh**, £895. mackintosh.com
5 ▶ Watch by **BOSS Watches**, £299. At hourtime.co.uk **6** ▶ Suit jacket by **Topman**, £110. topman.com
7 ▶ **Les Dauphins Blanc de Blancs NV**, £12.99. Available at Waitrose. lesdauphins-rhone.uk
8 ▶ Shirt by **Scotch & Soda**, £114.95. scotch-soda.com **9** ▶ Trainers by **Dune**, £80. dunelondon.com

PREVIEW

We love

Kent & Curwen's utilitarian rucksack

Blur the lines between old and new this season with Kent and Curwen's retro-inspired Spring/Summer 18 collection, mixing track-and-field inspirations with utilitarian details. This rucksack will sit just as comfortably in your off-duty wardrobe as it will in your locker.

Rucksack by **Kent & Curwen**, £395, kentandcurwen.com

Photograph **Matthew Beedle**

LIVE EVENT • LIVE EVENT • LIVE EVENT • LIVE EVENT • LIVE EVENT •
GQ LIVE!
WEDNESDAY
23 MAY
6:30PM | 8PM
WATCH AND JEWELLERY WEEK
21-25 May
Head to The Royal Exchange and shop brands including: Omega, Bremont, Georg Jensen, Tateossian, Tff any & Co. and Watches of Switzerland.

1. Silver Royal cable knot cufflinks by **Tateossian**, £295. tateossian.com **2**. Pilot's watch mark XVIII edition by **IWC**, £3,890. watches-of-switzerland.co.uk
3. Henning Koppel stainless steel watch by **Georg Jensen**, £795. georgjensen.com
4. Seamaster Railmaster Co-Axial Master Chronometer by **Omega**, £3,600. omegawatches.com **5**. Endurance watch by **Bremont** £4,795. bremont.com

Exclusive GQ Reader Event

Join Team GQ at The Royal Exchange for the ultimate watch and jewellery shopping experience

Whether you're looking for the perfect timepiece to add to your collection or simply want advice for that big purchase, we've got it covered. On Wednesday 23 May from 6:30pm – 8pm, *GQ* will be on hand at The Royal Exchange for our annual reader event. Teaming up with The Royal Exchange – the city's leading watch and jewellery emporium – we'll be there to guide you through that important purchase. Come and join our editors – with watch and jewellery experts – while they talk through their do's and don'ts and share with you their must-have edit from the selection of brands on offer. So come along and meet the team, while shopping the brands you love and making the most of the offers and promotions exclusive to the event. Want a sneak peek of what will be on offer? Here's a preview into the pieces that make us tick.

TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS

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rsvptheroyalexchange@condenast.co.uk

Edited by **Holly Roberts**

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*UK's No1 men's supplement brand. Nielsen GB ScanTrack Total Coverage Unit Sales 52 w/e 2 December 2017.

VITABIOTICS

Suitcase by **Globe-Trotter**, £1,260, globe-trotter.com

+ **Jennifer Bradly** stays classy in San Diego – the craft beer culture club p.128

San Diego

There's more to San Diego than year-round sunshine (although that's a very good reason to visit). A two-hour drive from LA, 20 miles from the Mexican border and hugging the Pacific coastline, this Southern Californian city is divided into distinct, chic and scenic neighbourhoods. It also has more than 140 breweries, microbreweries and brewpubs, making it the craft-beer capital of the US.

Where to stay

The downtown Gaslamp Quarter celebrated its 150th anniversary last year and it's been transformed from the decaying "sailor's entertainment" district of the Eighties into a buzzy neighbourhood packed with restaurants, bars, boutiques and some beautiful Victorian architecture.

In the heart of it all, you'll find a smart and eco-chic bolt hole in Hotel Indigo (*hotelinsd.com*), where the building is insulated by a vegetation-covered "green roof" that also provides herbs for the restaurant. Indigo's Level 9 is a stylish rooftop bar serving a range of local IPAs and tropical cocktails. Make the most of the views of the Petco Park baseball stadium by requesting a corner bedroom.

Virgin Atlantic flies from Heathrow to Los Angeles from £538. virginatlantic.com

Where to drink

The booming craft beer scene is so integral to San Diego that it's on the curriculum at two of its universities. Karl Strauss Brewing Company (*karlstrauss.com*) claims to be San Diego's original craft brewery, but Pariah (*pariahbrewingco.com*) is new to the scene and offers unusual brews, including the Off White Wit made with honey, jasmine, green tea, lemongrass, orange and ginger. If you can steer yourself off the beer trail, seek out the super-slick You & Yours distillery (*youandyours.com*) in East Village for California grape gin and vodka – distilled, bottled and labelled right on site.

Above: Hotel Indigo's Level 9 bar offers great views across the Gaslamp Quarter

Where to eat

Its close proximity means you'll never be short of Mexican-influenced cuisine La Jolla is packed with options, such as Galaxy Taco (*galaxytaco.com*), a passion project for chef Trey Foshee, who serves fully loaded corn tortillas against a backdrop of colourful murals. Locals will direct you to Taco Stand (*letstaco.com*), where you can tuck into an authentic cactus taco for $3 (*£2.15*).

Beyond burritos, there is the Arts District's Liberty Public Market (*libertypublicmarket.com*) – 2,300 sq metres of artisan food stalls. With options ranging from sandwiches and crêpes to Maine lobster rolls and sausages, you'll be grazing for days. Nearby, Officine Buona Forchetta (*buonaforchettasd.com*) is also worth the cab fare for its charred-crust pizzas alone

What to do

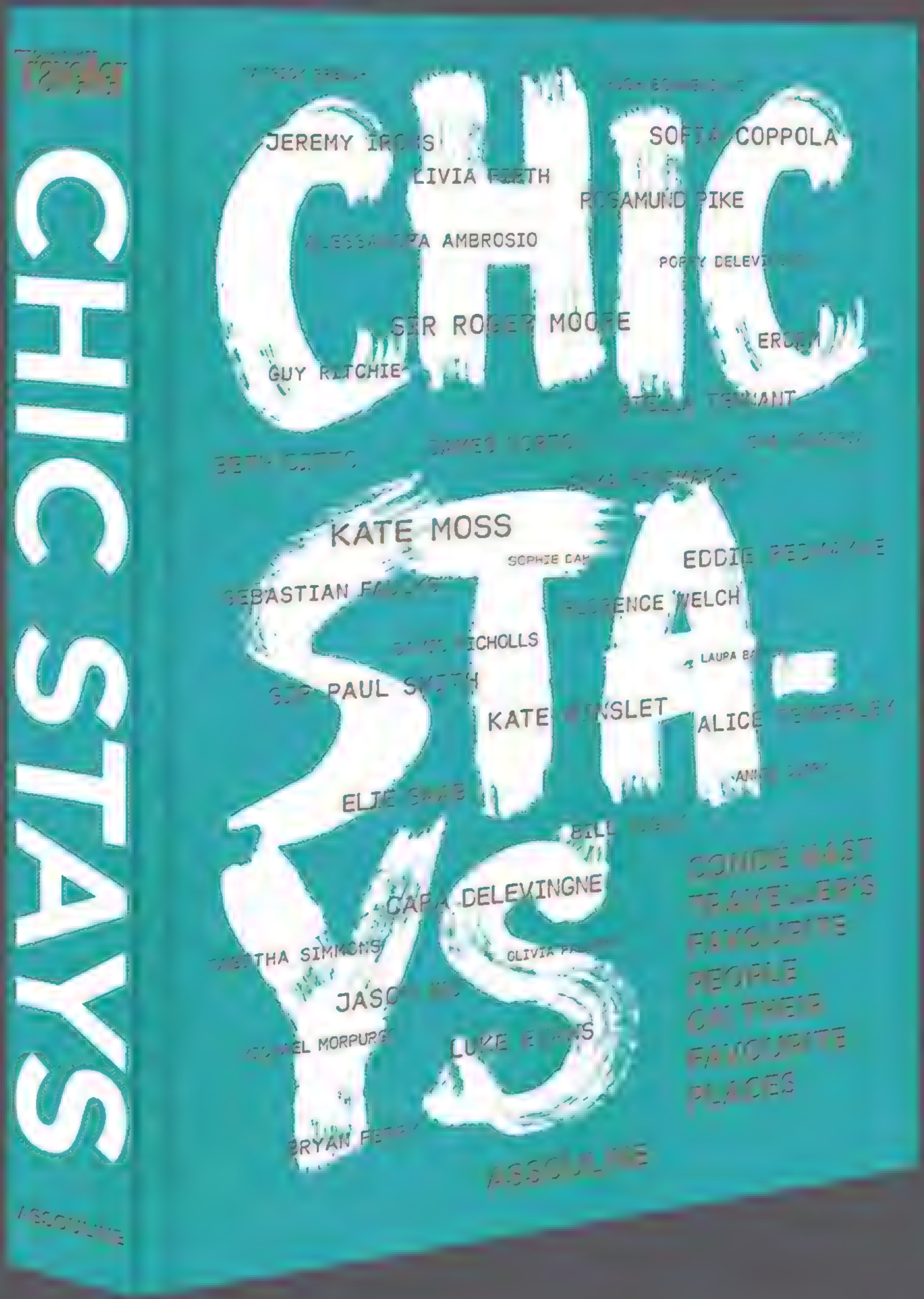
As a city by the sea in one of the US's most beautiful states, San Diego doesn't skimp on breathtaking attractions (and they don't all involve spotting filming locations from *Anchorman* and *Top Gun*). Catch seals basking on the rocks at La Jolla Cove or hop on a tour to glimpse the annual migration of blue whales. Sometimes you can spot them from Sunset Cliffs, which is also – as the name suggests – a prime spot for watching the sun go down over the Pacific.

A little further afield are the wineries of Temecula Valley. New to the scene in Californian terms (it was first planted in 1968 compared to Napa Valley's 1854), the reputation of wines from this region was revolutionised after 40 per cent of the region's vines were destroyed by flying insects in the early Nineties. The growers seized the opportunity to seriously up their game, bringing in more Mediterranean varietals and improving farming methods. Some newer wineries, including Monte De Oro (*montedeoro.com*), focus on environmentally friendly growing techniques, but the extraordinary panorama of vineyards, ranches and mountains seen from its sun-soaked terrace should be enough to persuade you that this is a must-see on your wine-tasting tour.

Oak Mountain Winery (*oakmountainwinery.com*), amid Temecula's avocado groves, has the region's only "wine cave", tunnelling 320 feet into the rocky hillside to store its barrels at optimal humidity and to provide its visitors with a rustic café-bar in which to sample its huge range of wines. And, yes, they also serve those local avocados fresh from the tree. **Jennifer Bradly**

Photographs **Getty Images; Lindsey Mane**

GQ visited San Diego with Virgin Holidays, which offers hundreds of new experiences – including Temecula Valley wine tours – and bespoke trips. A seven-night tour of the US West Coast includes flights from London Heathrow to Los Angeles, accommodation and car hire. *From £1,295 per person. virginholidays.co.uk*



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1

Tallinn, Estonia

Estonia's capital is almost as photogenic as you are and equally fun. Splash on Prada's new Luna Rossa Carbon (a moody mix of bergamot and patchouli) and head out for a night at the old town's Von Krahl pub and theatre.

Luna Rossa Carbon by **Prada**, £48.95 for 150ml. At Selfridges. selfridges.com

2

Genoa, Italy

You don't often hear about Genoa, but Liguria's capital is one of Italy's most charming metropolises (if you can call a city of 600,000 people a metropolis). Perched on the edge of the Ligurian sea, this port town plays host to countless medieval architectural gems, the best of which is the extraordinary Palazzo San Giorgio – a former jail which was home to Marco Polo in the 13th century. Great for fish fans, head to Soho on Via Al Ponte Calvi and sample the fettuccine with shrimp. Inspired by the coastline of Liguria, Acqua Di Parma's Blu Mediterraneo Chinotto Di Liguria is the perfect accompaniment to a weekend in the city, laced as it is with mandarin, geranium and jasmine.

Blu Mediterraneo Chinotto Di Liguria by **Acqua Di Parma**, £66 for 75ml. At John Lewis. johnlewis.com

Fragrance Special

Spray away!

Save your splashes for summer, shelve your EDPs till September and get energised with one of our top new mini-break fragrances. We'll even tell you where to wear them for the truest scents of place

Edited by **Teo van den Broeke**

3

San Sebastian, Spain

If you're eating a lot – which you will be in northern Spain's foodie haven of San Sebastian – you won't want anything that will overshadow the flavours. Try a splash of this grown-up take on Giorgio Armani's 1996 classic Acqua Di Gio. After that, be sure to head to Casa Urola and to ask for the octopus.

Acqua Di Gio Absolu by **Giorgio Armani**, £74 for 75ml. armanibeauty.com

4

Fez, Morocco

From Hermès' new collection, Cardamusc essences de parfum is just the thing to wear in the sensory surroundings of Fez. Combining the sweetness of cardamom with the softness of musk, it's perfect for a weekend trawling the souks.

Cardamusc essences de parfum by **Hermès**, £275 for 20ml. At Harrods. harrods.com

Photographs Pixeleyes

In search of the perfect mouth brow

Long live the moustache! The four top lip scarfs that suit every face

At the time of writing, three (that's three) members of the *GQ* fashion team can be seen sporting heavy 'taches around magazine HQ. A look that – rightly or wrongly – is often associated with Seventies porn stars, the moustache, in fact, has had a long and illustrious history. King Charles I started the trend in the early 1600s. A few centuries later, Lord Byron gave the Regency ladies something to swoon over with his perfectly twisted 'tache. More recently, James Franco, Henry Cavill, Bradley Cooper and David Beckham have all sported moustaches to elegant effect. Here, to help you figure out what type of 'tache suits you best (and help you take care of it), is *GQ*'s barber in residence Carmelo Guastella's guide to making the most of your upper lip hair.

Story by **Teo van den Broeke** Illustrations by **Sam Gilbey**

The classic

Tom Selleck

"To achieve this moustache, you need to have a large upper lip area with thick facial growth and it suits guys with strong jaws the best. You need about a month to grow it out to the desired length. Use a moustache comb and scissors to trim wayward hairs and cut a light line around the top lip. Use a sma l amount of beard oil and comb to smooth the hairs downwards. Also make sure you wash and condition your 'tache regularly."

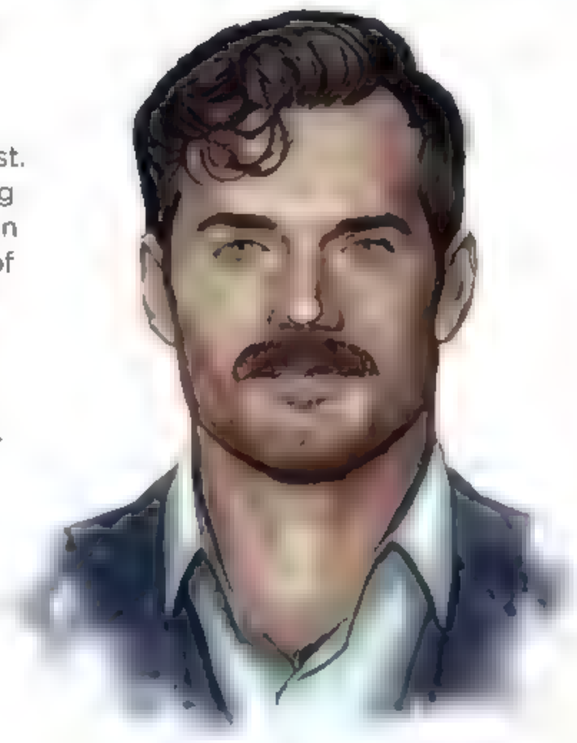
The product: Sailors Beard Oil by Haeckels, £34 for 50ml. haeckels co.uk

The halfway house

Henry Cavill

"This modern style suits both square- and oval-shaped faces best. It has the advantage of not looking like a full-on moustache (which can still be quite polarising) because of the stubble backing. Achieve this look by growing your moustache out for a month. It doesn't need to look perfect. Use scissors to remove stray hairs and use a high-quality clipper on the beard area to create a subtle, stubbled look – around two or three millimetres should do the trick."

The product: Series 7000 beard trimmer by Philips, £50. At amazon.co.uk

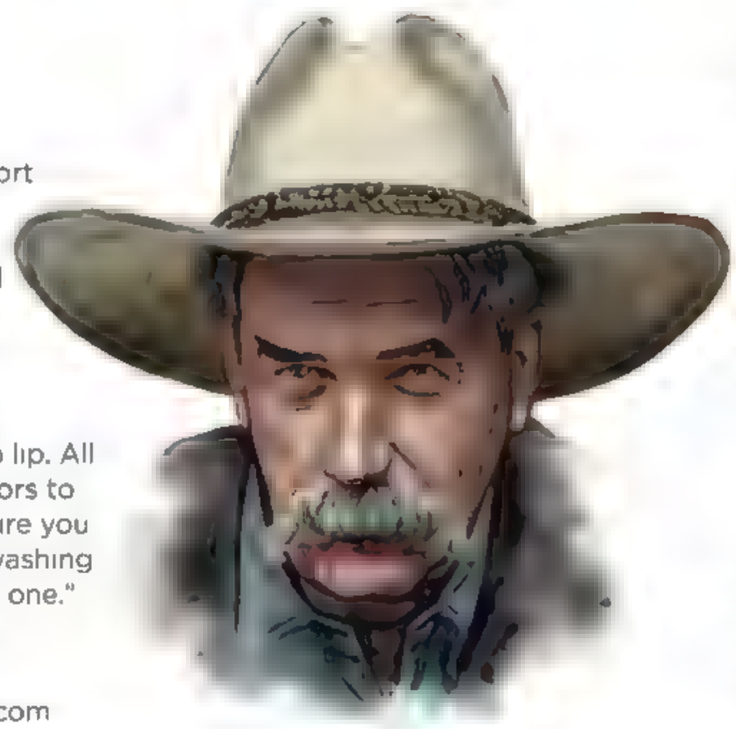


The walrus

The Stranger, The Big Lebowski

"If you're brave enough to sport this style of moustache, then you need to grow out the hair above your lip for a good two months. Don't worry too much about being precise, as this is all about looking a bit rough and ready. The growth should hang well over the top lip. All you need is a comb and scissors to keep it in shape. Just make sure you grow out the sides. Regular washing is absolutely essential for this one."

The product: Original Beard Shampoo & Conditioner by Bulldog, £6. bulldogskincare.com



The skimmer

Jamie Foxx

"The barely there moustache best suits oval-shaped faces You need softer facial hair to achieve this style. Start with a mini trimmer to get the line on the upper lip neat and perfect and use a classic razor to sharpen up the top. Use a pair of scissors to remove any odd hairs that stick up here and there."

The product: Moustache scissors with comb by Tweezerman Gear, £20. gear.tweezerman com

CARMELO GUASTELLA IS MEN'S GROOMING DIRECTOR AT GIELLY GREEN *GIELLYGREEN.CO UK*

+ The edit: Tackle the Uncle Fester look with these eye serums

Lighter than a cream (and more gentle on the area around your eyes), these serums are the latest weapons in the fight against crow's feet

For sagging skin
Blue Serum Eye by Chanel, £57. chanel com

For tired eyes
Anti-Fatigue Eye Serum by Clarins, £30. clarins.co.uk

After a big night
Parsley Seed Anti-Oxidant Eye Serum by Aesop, £57. aesop.com

For dry eyes
Daywear Eye cream by Estée Lauder, £29.50 At Boots. boots com

For sensitive peepers
Super Eye Serum by Verso, £65. At cultbeauty.com

When all hope is lost
Supremya Yeax La Nuit anti-ageing eye serum by Sisley, £185. At Space NK. spacenk.com

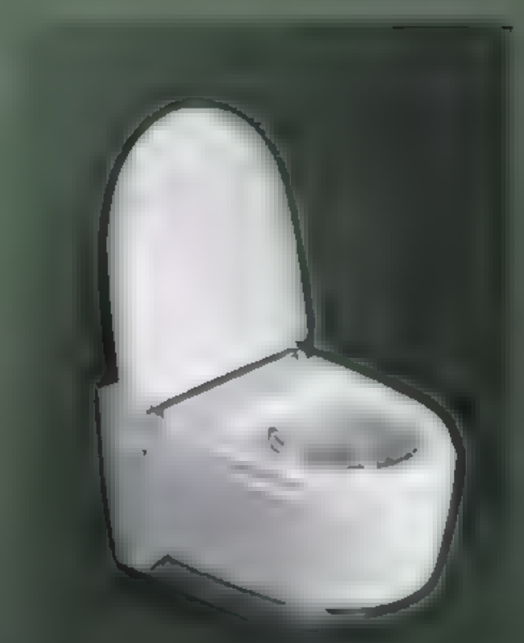
Photographs **Getty Images**

GEBERIT

TOILET?
I CALL IT A SPA.

GEBERIT AQUACLEAN. THE SHOWER TOILET.

DESIGN
MEETS
FUNCTION



Experience a completely new feeling of freshness and cleanliness with Geberit AquaClean: the shower toilet that cleans you with a pulsating spray of warm water at the touch of a button. Find out more about the versatile shower toilets from Geberit at **geberit-aquaclean.co.uk**.

SPEED DATING

GQ JOURNEY: BARCELONA

We asked models Cristina Tosio and Richard Biedul to give us a guided tour around the stylish city of Barcelona – and they took the new SEAT Leon CUPRA along for the ride

If Hollywood has taught us anything, it's that the best way to celebrate a city and bring it to life is for a happy couple to explore it on wheels. Take *The Italian Job*, where Michael Caine and David Salamone celebrate a daring gold heist with a driving tour of Turin in a little Sixties runabout. Or how about *The Blues Brothers* in which John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd paid homage to sweet home Chicago in the Bluesmobile. And who can forget Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn's love letter to the Eternal City, because their *Roman Holiday* wouldn't have been a holiday without that classic scooter.

So, when we asked Cristina Tosio to give us a cinematic tour of her favourite city, we couldn't let her go alone, and we didn't expect her to walk. Luckily, her friend and fellow model Richard Biedul didn't take much persuading to go along for the ride. And they both jumped at the chance to take in the sights in the new SEAT Leon CUPRA.

Born and raised in Barcelona, the SEAT Leon CUPRA is the ultimate city car for drivers with a lust for a faster pace of life. Combining a race-track attitude with urban agility and a red-hot hatch aesthetic, this fashion conscious Catalonian is the perfect way to beat the traffic and arrive in the city's hottest spots in style.

Richard Biedul and Cristina Tosio

Take Can Framis, for example, a converted 18th-century factory now home to a collection of contemporary paintings. "As a museum of modern art, what I love about this gallery is that it features so many up-and-coming local artists and is a continuation of the history of art in this city," says Cristina.

Having built up an appetite, their next stop is lunch on the terrace at Batuar in the Cotton House Hotel, the place where Cristina always stays when she is visiting Barcelona. Then for a little energy boost, they drive over to El Nacional bar on Passeig de Gràcia for a restorative caffeine hit. "Great idea," says Richard. "Just what we need to give us the energy to make our last stop."

Re-Read is a cool second-hand bookshop, with all books costing the same price, and an easy place to spend a lot time. "There is something very magical about finding an old hardback book," says Biedul. "Leafing through the pages and finding some beautiful pictures of Barcelona."

"Now you know why it is my favourite city in the world," adds Tosio.

With their city tour at an end and in the best Hollywood tradition, Cristina and Richard drive the SEAT Leon CUPRA into the Barcelona sunset. Roll credits… The End..

The SEAT Leon CUPRA is the ultimate city car for drivers with a lust for a faster pace of life

The SEAT Leon CUPRA on the streets of Barcelona

Lights, cameras, action!

To see more of models Cristina Tosio and Richard Biedul and their exciting Barcelona city guide, and even more of the SEAT Leon CUPRA, head over to **gq-magazine.co.uk** for our exclusive video.

Master the style tweak

Just For Men's Moustache & Beard range will help you look subtly smart – day in, day out

1. Apply sparingly
The beauty of Just For Men's Moustache & Beard range is that a little goes a very long way. Apply a touch occasionally and you'll be good to go for ages. Even better you get results in just five short minutes, so you can look your best without any stress
JUST FOR MEN

Beards are still big news. Just ask Anthony Bogdan, a Scandinavian social sensation who documents his stylish life, and that of his family, one monochromatic post at a time on Instagram. Bogdan is the embodiment of subtle masculine style. From the tattoos on his arms and back, to his sweep of dark hair and of course, his enormous bushy beard, Bogdan is the kind of man we really want to be when we grow up. The thing is, a beard like Bogdan's requires occasional maintenance, and we're not just talking a wash and condition or a regular trim. What Bogdan's beard – and your beard too, for that matter – really needs, is an occasional, subtle colour touch up, to keep it looking lustrous and full. Enter Just For Men's Moustache & Beard range, which has been developed to enable you to quickly and simply colour your beard on those rare occasions when it needs a little help getting back to its natural brilliance. Super easy to use, the JFM Moustache & Beard range will remove greys in just five minutes, and whether you're a blond, brown, a jet black or a chestnut hue like Bogdan, it's an easy way to make a subtle change to your personal style. Gentle on facial hair as it's ammonia free, the Moustache & Beard range is just the thing if like, Bogdan, you've noticed those first few greys in your beard and you want to get it Insta-ready.

It's an easy way to make a subtle change to your personal style

Moustache & Beard range by Just For Men available nationwide.

2. Don't be afraid of pin stripes
Stripes are big news for Spring Summer 18. When it comes to tailoring, opt for chalk or pin for an ultra-sharp look that feels both elegant and edgy (but not too edgy). To avoid looking like a wolf on Wall Street, wear your suit with a sweater – rollneck or crew, it's up to you

3. It's all about your accessories

Avoid looking like just another man in a suit by teaming your ta loring with cons dered, complementary accessories A cashmere scarf n the same or similar tone to your suit and a chic tote in (you guessed it) a tonal hue, will have you ready to take on the world in no time

4. Take it down a notch
The beauty of a two-piece suit is just that – it consists of two pieces – which means that when you need to be more casual, you can team the trousers with a sweater or a bomber and a pair of trainers. Likewise, you can treat your jacket like a blazer. Two for one!

5. Maintenance is key
When you're out and about be sure to keep your beard and moustache looking fresh by using a dab of Just For Men's beard oil. Walking in and out of air conditioning and central heating can dry hair out, after all, and no one wants that.

Face and Beard Wash
Loaded with ultra-sensitive natural ingredients including oatmeal, camomile and jo,oba, Just For Men's new face and beard wash helps unclog pores (and, in turn, prevents the dreaded beard itch) while intensively moisturising skin.

Beard Oil
There's nothing worse than a greasy oil which leaves your beard feeling like it's been dipped in a chip pan. Enter Just for Men's new Best Beard Oil Ever. Light, non-greasy and loaded with natural ingred ents, you'll barely notice it's there.

Beard Conditioner
You might think it's enough to just wash your beard now and then, but you'd be wrong. Use Just For Men's Best Face and Beard Conditioner Ever every other day to help calm sk.n and to improve the quality of your facial hair

Ava able exc..s ve y from ***Amazon*** *amazon co uk*

CHAMPAGNE
BOLLINGER
R.D. 2004
EXTRA BRUT
CHAMPAGNE
BOLLINGER
R.D. 2004

+ **Mark Hix** toasts the best of British apples p.144 **Ben Olsen** tries island life in the Scillies p.145 **Kathleen Johnston** samples the high life at Waeska p.146

Photograph **David Loftus**

Dirty loaded lobster rolls from Fire Food: The Ultimate BBQ Cookbook by DJ BBQ, Christian Stevenson

GQ Taste

Taking the temperature of Britain's hottest kitchens

Edited by **Paul Henderson & Bill Prince**

The Cocktail

Temperley Sour by Mark Hix

I created this after picking a few handfuls of crab apples at my house in Dorset. If you can't find crab apples, you can just use normal dessert or Bramley varieties. I use cherries from Pass Vale Farm in Somerset, which you can buy from the website (*somersetciderbrandy.com*) and at my restaurants.

For the apple syrup

Ingredients

(makes 150-200ml)

200g crab apples or **2** sharp dessert apples, roughly chopped

2 tbsp caster sugar (or more depending on the apples)

Method

Put the apples in a saucepan with the sugar and 200ml of water.

Bring to the boil then simmer for 8-10 minutes until the apples are soft. Strain through a fine sieve.

The syrup should be quite sweet but still taste of apple – if it needs more, stir in more sugar to taste.

Leave to cool.

Ingredients

(serves one)

30ml Somerset Cider Brandy

½ tbsp Kingston Black Aperitif

2 tbsp apple syrup (see above)

Juice of ½ lemon

½ egg white

1 morello cherry in Somerset Apple Eau De Vie

Method

Half fill a cocktail shaker with ice.

Add the cider brandy, Kingston Black, apple syrup, lemon juice and egg white.

Shake well for 20 seconds.

Strain into coupe glasses and garnish with a cherry.

The Bottle

Bollinger RD 2004

If blending is one of the dark arts at the heart of champagne, then the other is ageing; when deployed by a skilled cellar master, it results in a drink of supreme balance, taste and finesse. Bollinger RD harnesses the potential of mature champagne, taking a tiny selection of exceptionally well-aged bottles, from the outstanding 2004 vintage, and giving them a shot in the arm of freshness and verve by disgorging the spent yeast cells and adding the "extra brut" dosage just before release. The outcome is magnificent – the 2002 was met with exuberant reviews from every critic and the 2004 is similarly exciting. A rich and complex champagne, it opens up in the glass with flavours of ripe fruit, spice and butterscotch, the recent disgorging and release adding zest and vitality. It's a bottle worth lingering over, if it lasts that long. Amy Matthews ***£180. At Berry Bros & Rudd. bbr.com***

Photograph **Chris Hoare** | Illustrations **Joe McKendry**

The Club

Five Miles. London

Tottenham isn't cool, is it? It certainly is if you head straight to this half-club half-brewery in a former industrial estate.

Sounds good, but I think I'm in the wrong place. You will assume you are lost, but persevere. Behind the uninviting exterior lies a seriously thriving social spot.

Is there decent sound in this industrial estate? You're in safe hands, as one of the club's cofounders is Deano Jo, a familiar face in East London's creative circles, and the man behind The Alibi in Dalston and Haggerston cocktail bar Pamela.

It's on an industrial estate. It must be vast. Quite the opposite. With a capacity of around 250, Five Miles has carved up the space to create more intimate settings that reach beyond the confines of house and techno.

Do I even need to dance? It's 2018. Of course not. If you want to set up for the evening with a book and a leisurely drink at the bar, no one will bat an eyelid. This is the epitome of a hybrid venue, a bright all-in-one destination for grabbing a bite or picking up a coffee during the day. It has also jumped on the craft beer trend with Hale Brewery, based in a shipping container on site.

Is this my scene? If you tick any of these boxes: a) creative, b) in your twenties or thirties or c) bored of pretentious London clubs, Five Miles (exactly five miles from the centre of London) proves the capital's real magic is to be found in less well-known pockets of the city.

Anna Gordon

● 39b Markfield Road, London N15. 020 8216 9088. fivemiles.london

The Roundup

+ Culture shock!

Menu masterpieces in galleries and museums

The Garden Café

The Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1. 020 3640 9322. gardenmuseum.org.uk

The setup: A celebration of British gardens housed in a former church, Lambeth's Garden Museum was redeveloped last year. Chefs Harry Kaufman (Lyle's) and George Ryle (Padella) serve a short à la carte lunch menu, plus dinner on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Eat this: The menu, inspired by the gardens, changes daily. Visit for seasonal dishes such as brill, cockles and Alexanders (*£19*).

Drink this: As you'd expect from a café taking its cues from nature, there's a range of organic, biodynamic wines, including a juicily drinkable red, the 2014 Nicolas Carmarans Aveyron Maximus (*£40 a bottle*).

The Whitechapel Refectory

Whitechapel Gallery, 77-82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1. 020 7522 7896 whitechapelgallery.org

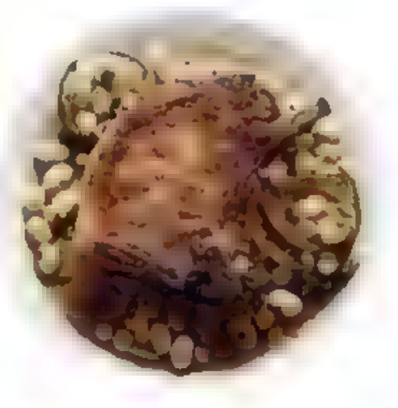
The setup: The team behind 8 Hoxton Square and 10 Greek Street took over the Whitechapel Gallery café in 2017. Chef Cameron Emirali serves seasonal dishes spiked with Middle Eastern flavours from a huge marble counter.

Eat this: Fuel up for some serious East End art with a bagel filled with salt beef, cream cheese, watercress and pickles (*£6*)

Drink this: The Refectory opens late on Thursdays for the gallery's evening events, serving snacks with wine and craft beer, cider and, curiously, mead – including the small-batch Gosnells (*£5*), which is brewed in Peckham.

Rochelle Bar & Canteen

Institute Of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1. 020 7766 1424. ica.art



The setup: Championing rad'cal art since the Forties, the ICA returned to its modernist roots last year and welcomed Margot Henderson and Melanie Arnold (Rochelle Canteen) into the fold with their stylish restaurant, café and bar.

Eat this: This is no quotidian canteen fare. Chef Ben Coombs' launch menu featured a whole pig's head. The fried sprats with gribiche (*£7.50*) sings out from a list of bold little bar snacks

Drink this: Arnold's son Fin Spiteri (Quo Vadis; Trullo) has devised a cocktail menu of reliable classics, including Negronis, Martinis and Margaritas (*all £6.50*). **JB**

The Pub

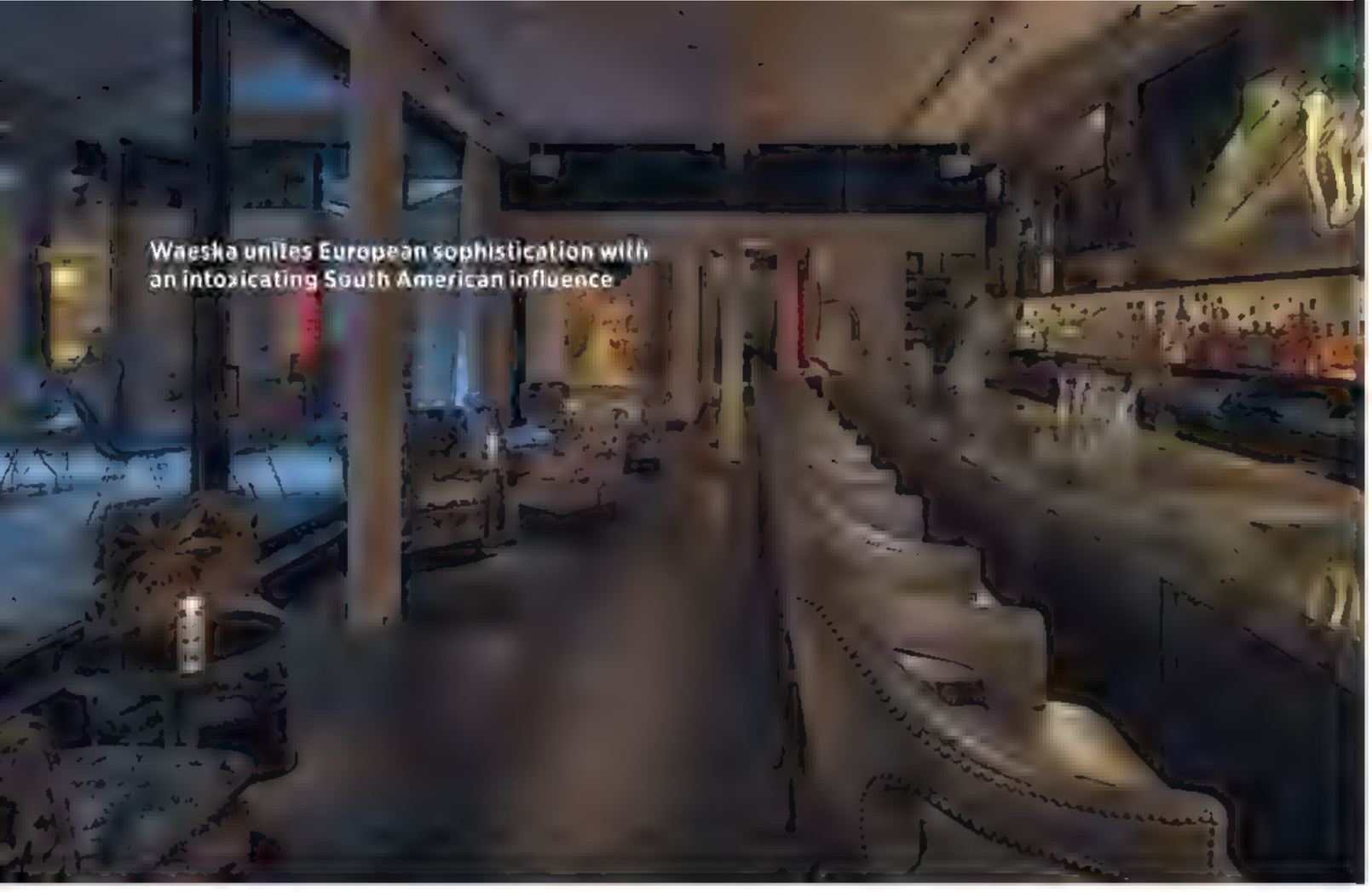
The New Inn. Tresco

Go local in the Isles Of Scilly

If in need of a stiff drink following the bracing eight-seater flight and ferry transfer from Land's End, visitors to Tresco are in luck, with its New Inn (the island's only inn) just a short walk from the quayside. One of the five inhabited Isles Of Scilly, life on Tresco – population just 175 – revolves around this lively stone-clad pub, which offers a welcoming spot for locals and newcomers throughout the year. Its sun-kissed south-facing beer garden heaves during the warmer months thanks to a roster of fortnightly live music, regular ale and cider fairs and a twice-yearly spring-tide festival, which sees a sandbar unite Tresco with the neighbouring island of Bryher.

A strong food offering includes the island's ubiquitous Tresco beef dished up as burgers and steaks, vegetables from the local Abbey Garden and never-fresher Bryher crab and lobster – expect to see the boats return with the day's catch just hours before it ends up on your plate. Behind the bar you'll find a choice of beers by the aptly titled Ales Of Scilly brewery; a pint of Schiller golden ale is a well-deserved end to a day traversing the island's subtropical gardens, golden beaches and castle ruins. Ben Olsen

● New Grimsby, Tresco TR24 0QQ. 01720 422849. tresco.co.uk


Waeska unites European sophistication with an intoxicating South American influence

The Bar

Waeska at The Mandrake. London

Forget everything you thought you knew about hotel bars, because The Mandrake is no ordinary hotel. Having opened in September 2017, the foliage-filled Fitzrovia hotspot has already earned a reputation as one of the most magical, hedonistic hideaways in the city. And at the centre of this is Waeska. The name alludes to South American hallucinogen ayahuasca and you'd be forgiven for feeling like you're tripping when you walk in, because the first thing you'll notice is the mythical creature – part peacock, part gazelle – mounted on the wall above the sleek, bottle-lined bar.

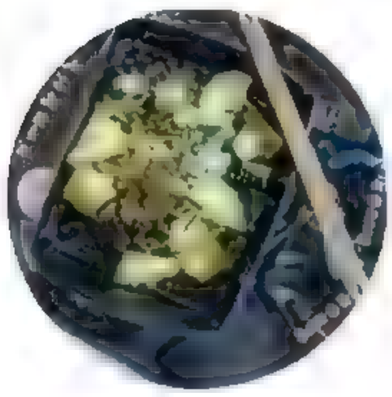
Everything is bizarre but beautiful. Foraged plants, folk medicine and mystical lore inform it all, from the carved, tribal-style wooden statues and plush jungle-print armchairs to the mind-bending menu. Unusual botanicals take pride of place on the cocktail list, with highlights including the Hedonist (coconut-washed rum, coffee and passion-fruit sherbet and orange curaçao) and its take on a classic Negroni, the White Witch, made with truffled vodka and a wattleseed tincture. The crisp, thin-as-string onion rings are the must-order bar snack. Overseeing operations is industry titan Walter Pintus, former head bartender at The Ritz and The Connaught, with an army of unassuming staff dressed in millennial-pink velvet ready to indulge your every whim.

True to its otherworldly vibe, Waeska is bigger than it might at first seem. At the back of the bar you'll find a sumptuously decorated room complete with corner sofas and DJ decks for when the party really gets going, after nine o'clock. Then there's the stunning central courtyard, which the glass-walled main bar opens onto for warm summer nights. An evening with Waeska makes for one very good trip indeed. Kathleen Johnston

● 20-21 Newman Street, London W1. 020 3146 7770. themandrake.com

Small Bites

+ Where we've been eating this month...

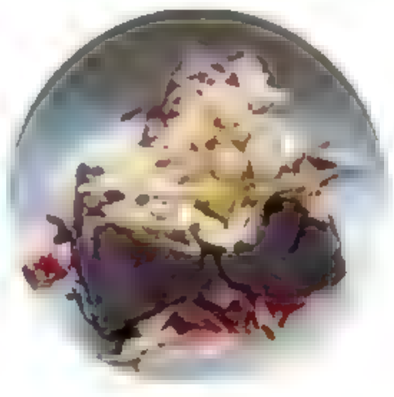


Beer & Buns

This buzzy Japanese *izakaya* has the UK's largest range of Japanese craft beer – plus hirata buns and table tennis.

Standout dish: The bulgogi beef bun with spicy Korean kimchi.

K10, 3 Appold Street, London EC2. 07724 548859. beerandbuns.co.uk



Carousel

The award-winning culinary collective gets better and better, with ever-improving menus and inspirational guest chefs

Standout dish: Bucatini, nduja butter, black mustard and stracciatella.

71 B andford Street, London W1 020 7487 5564. carousel-london.com

Bellamy's

Mayfair's least ostentatious dining room is still its most lively, thanks to Gavin Rankin's all-welcome attitude.

Standout dish: Fillets of Dover sole, oil and lemon and pommes vapeur.

18 Bruton Place, London W1. 020 7491 2727. bellamysrestaurant.co.uk

The Restaurant

The Frog. London

Chef Adam Handling makes a great leap forward

You know a chef is a good sort when the first dish on his ten-course tasting menu is dedicated to his mother. Adam Handling, the 29-year-old known for his stint on 2013's *Masterchef: The Professionals* and for his original Frog E1 restaurant, created the £95 menu's only savoury meat-free dish, named "Mother", because his is a vegetarian. It is also the best dish on the menu: a wonderful, sticky mess of cream cheese, celeriac, egg yolk and black truffle.

The other nine courses (start early) are more theatrical. There is a single mussel, adorned with fresh flowers so that it looks like a tiny allotment when it arrives in a puff of smoke. There's a miniature "posh baked potato", served with a dollop of cheese-and-chive sauce and topped with a pile of caviar, to be eaten with your fingers in one hot, glorious bite. And there's a block of frozen foie gras that is ceremoniously grated over delicately cooked butternut agnolotti and trompettes.

This is food for aesthetic admiration as well as sensory satisfaction, which perhaps explains the signed wall of approval from fellow chefs (we spied Chris Galvin and Oliver Peyton's autographs). Despite a few docked points for showing off, his mother should be very proud. **Eleanor Halls**

● 34-35 Southampton Street, London WC2. 020 7199 8370. thefrogrestaurant.com

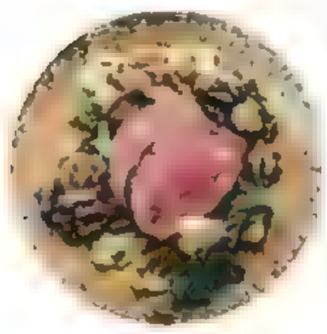
Razor clams from The Frog's £95 tasting menu

Seaham Hall, where Lord Byron was once a guest, has recently renovated its luxury suites

The Hotel

Seaham Hall. County Durham

Weather steely North Sea elements in this vaunted Byronic spa stay



On the sands of Seaham's epic bay, beachcombers search each morning for coloured sea glass discarded from an old factory, while above all this activity sits another gem of the North East, the recently renovated Georgian mansion of Seaham Hall. Revelling in its storied history (visited by Lord Byron, birthplace of his mathematical genius daughter, Ada Lovelace, a military hospital then a sanatorium, abandoned by aristocratic owners in the Twenties, then passed from one custodian to another until 2012) the hotel and spa is now offering magnificent suites and a fine, intimate restaurant.

GQ was already approaching mindfulness in the Executive Suite (just your regulation luxury – the Ada Lovelace Suite and Penthouse are even more striking), before a trip to the Serenity Spa. In order to protect guests from the wrath of the North Sea, you get there via an underground passageway, flanked by babbling brooks and a giant ornamental elephant, an experience which is part Asian New Age, part Bond villain's lair, but all serious fun. After the pool and a range of relaxing treatments, *GQ* was ready just in time for dinner.

Byron's Restaurant is much more than merely an adjunct to the hotel and the tasting menu has the best of their best, starting with Whitby Bay crab, lamb with anchovies, monkfish with a chicken wing (it works) and beef with salsify and bone marrow sauce. The service was disarmingly warm and attentive, as a Londoner would see it, or "normal" as the locals would. By the time *GQ* had finished we looked like a fat Buddha as well as feeling like one. Happily, the hotel grounds are suitably pleasing and, weather permitting, reward a postprandial stroll, which is the perfect way to reflect on a near-perfect stay. **George Chesterton**

● **Lord Byron's Walk, Seaham, County Durham SR7 7AG. 01915 161400. seaham-hall.co.uk**

Illustration **Joe McKendry**

TASTE LIFE

The Book

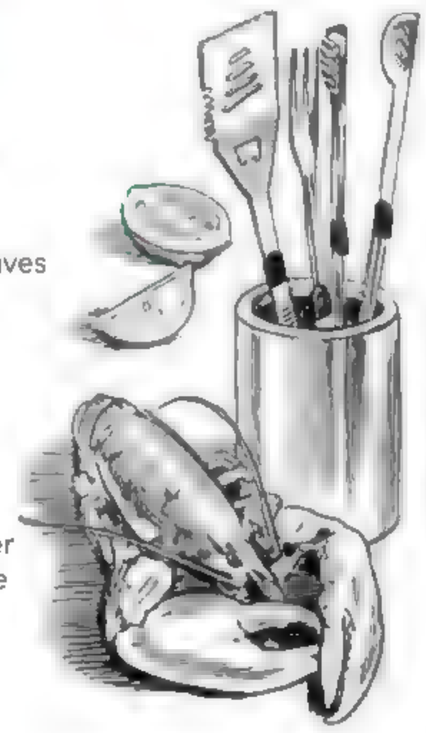
Fire Food

As his YouTube alter ego DJ BBQ, Christian Stevenson is an online culinary force of nature famous for his love of outdoor cooking and all-American expletives, plus the enthusiastic endorsement of Jamie Oliver. But don't let any of that put you off. He might be an acquired taste as a presenter, but his recipes are the real deal. Packed with flavour, simple to follow and easy on the eye (thanks to photographs by David Loftus), if this doesn't inspire you to take up smoking (and grilling) nothing will. **PH**

Dirty loaded lobster roll

Ingredients

(serves 4)



100g salted butter

2 garlic cloves, sliced

1 chilli, sliced

1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves

2 whole raw lobsters (about 600g each) halved lengthways

Juice of ½ lemon

To serve

4 burger buns (I prefer brioche as this is quite a decadent meal)

4 tbsp mayonnaise

½ a bunch of chives

Method

Get a nice bed of coals cooking. Once they've hit core temperature and started to ash up, you are good to go.

While this is happening, melt your butter in a small saucepan and add the garlic, chilli and thyme leaves. Once the butter starts bubbling, take it off the heat. Set it aside.

Blow the ash off the coals, then lay the lobster halves flesh-side down for 1-2 minutes. Once you have a nice char, gently turn them over and brush with the flavoured butter.

Cook for another couple of minutes, brushing every 30 seconds. The meat will pull away from the shell when cooked.

Leave to rest for a couple of minutes and pop your butter back on the grill to keep warm.

Gently remove the flesh from the tails and claws. Brush again with the butter. Finish with the lemon juice. Toast your buns. Spread a dollop of mayo on the base, pile the lobster meat high and sprinkle on the chives. Serve. GQ

● **Fire Food: The Ultimate BBQ Cookbook by Christian Stevenson (Quadrille, £15) is out on 19 April.**

Felix Tailored
Shirt, £79.95 City
Neuston Chino
Trousers, £74.95
All by **Barbour**
barbour.com

GREAT OUTDOORS

Whether you're in the city or the countryside, enjoy the sunshine with Barbour's new Spring Summer shirt collection

Whether you're out exploring this green and pleasant land or soaking up summer in the city, Britain always looks its best when the sun is shining. To ensure that you do too, this season, Barbour's Shirt Department is offering more spring and summer pieces than ever before.

Barbour shirts are expertly tailored for a comfortable yet casual style and have long been a wardrobe staple for any self-respecting gentleman. Its latest collection has been expanded to include even more lightweight fabrics and a choice of short or long sleeves, which make them perfect for the warmer months.

Its relaxed yet smart look is demonstrated by Outlander star and Barbour Global Brand Ambassador actor Sam Heughan. Here, he shows why Barbour shirts are a perfect choice for your downtime, whether you're spending it catching up with friends, looking after the children or even need to pop into the office to take care of business.

As always, the tartans used in the shirts are all exclusive to Barbour. This year, cotton seersuckers and linen shirts have been added to Barbour's collection, which means you'll always be able to stay cool in the heat. These lightweight shirts are also effortlessly on-trend, featuring summer micro prints and polka dots in an array of colours to suit every wardrobe. Versatile, and easy to wear, they

Barbour's Shirt Department is offering more spring and summer styles than ever before

make the ideal companion for jeans, shorts or chinos.

Barbour's Country Gingham styles, meanwhile, have smaller checks and bold colours which add a touch of sunshine to a wardrobe classic. Beautifully tailored through the body, these shirts are designed to give a slimmer appearance to the silhouette. The small check of the Country Gingham provides a smarter look which makes it ideal to be paired with chinos whether you're spending your time at work or leisure.

Inspired by its Scottish roots, Barbour has also given its Highland Checks something of a summer facelift with large checks and strong colours. These shirts are tailored with »

Newton Short Sleeved Tailored Shirt, £54.95. City Neuston Chino Trousers, £74.95. All by **Barbour**. barbour.com

» narrower sleeves around the biceps, which results in a more defined shape to the forearm and cuff. Perfect for a relaxed weekend look, they're bound to impress.

Barbour's Tattersall shirts are design icons and this season they're also available in new fabrics using light poplins in high-density weaves that create greater colour depth. Among the best of the new designs are the pink and sandstone looks, which pop with eye-catching colour. That's not forgetting traditional wardrobe staples like Barbour's Oxford shirts in traditional white, navy and light blue – guaranteed to look sophisticated with any outfit.

Having been around since 1894, and making men's shirts since 1914, it's no surprise that Barbour has got its design and tailoring down to a fine art. Now, with the addition of warm weather friendly fabrics, cuts and designs, it can be an essential part of your wardrobe all year round. Wherever you find yourself this summer, Barbour ensures there's never any excuse to look less than your best.

Barbour

The Shirt Department

Your new summer staples

Step into the sun with the new collection from Barbour's Shirt Department. Here, we pick out four of our favourites

Felix Tailored Shirt by **Barbour**, £79.95

Owen Tailored Shirt by **Barbour**, £64.95

Newton Short Sleeved Tailored Shirt by **Barbour**, £54.95

Oscar Tailored Shirt by **Barbour**, £69.95. All available at barbour.com

THE GQ DROP

Edited by Bill Prince

Dorian Lynskey on the rock gods getting off the tour bus for good p.152 **Matthew d'Ancona** decides tnat the local elections could bring down the government p.154 **Martin Samuel** questions the wisdom of taking Premier League games abroad p.155 **Tony Parsons** spins Google's moral compass p.156 **Stuart McGurk** urges Marvel to go in for the kill p.159

Illustration **Nicola Jennings**

Stuart McGurk on the rise of polite extremist Jacob Rees-Mogg from walking, talking caricature of poshness to frontrunner in the race to replace the PM – p158

Music

No sleep till boneyard

Now that rock's gerontocracy is coming off tour, are the house lights dimming for good?

Story by **Dorian Lynskey** Illustration by **Jeremy Booth**

According to a Los Angeles coroner, Tom Petty died on 2 October last year from a cardiac arrest brought on by an accidental overdose of prescription opioids, including fentanyl. His family revealed that Petty had just played 53 dates with a fractured hip rather than let down his fans and used opioids to relieve the pain. "On the day he died," read their official statement, "he was informed his hip had graduated to a full-on break and it is our feeling that the pain was simply unbearable and was the cause for his over-use of medication." The 66-year-old had already suggested to *Rolling Stone* that the tour, marking the 40th anniversary of the debut album by his band, The Heartbreakers, might be his last: "We're all on the backside of our sixties... I don't want to spend my life on the road."

Fentanyl is a synthetic narcotic about 50 times stronger than heroin. In 2016, a record 3,946 Americans fatally overdosed on the drug. And one of them was Prince. Prince's friend and former bandmate Sheila E said that, like Petty, the artist had been suffering from chronic hip and knee injuries caused by decades of energetic performances in high heels. The otherwise clean-living star's secret addiction to opioids may have stemmed from an effort to treat that pain.

When I saw Prince play his final London show in February 2015, I suspected nothing. I remember thinking that he seemed as roaringly vibrant at 56 as he had ever been. Foolish me. How could I have forgotten that performance is a kind of magic trick that requires the illusion of invulnerability? If it was possible for Chris Cornell to perform a terrific show with Soundgarden in Detroit last May, then go back to his hotel room and hang himself an hour or so later, then it's possible to hide any amount of agony in the spotlight's glare. Petty's family said that he died "after doing what he loved the most", but what if the thing artists love the most, and the thing their fans most crave, is indirectly killing them?

These losses have made me feel differently about this year's epidemic of retirements. During two weeks in January, Sir Elton John, Paul Simon, Slayer and Lynyrd Skynyrd all announced farewell tours, while Neil Diamond bowed out due to Parkinson's disease and Rush confirmed that they were "basically done", having already quit touring because of chronic ailments. Not all departures are significant – Lynyrd Skynyrd haven't been creatively vital since the Carter administration. Not all are abrupt – Elton's typically flamboyant long goodbye will last three years. But never before have so many happened at once.

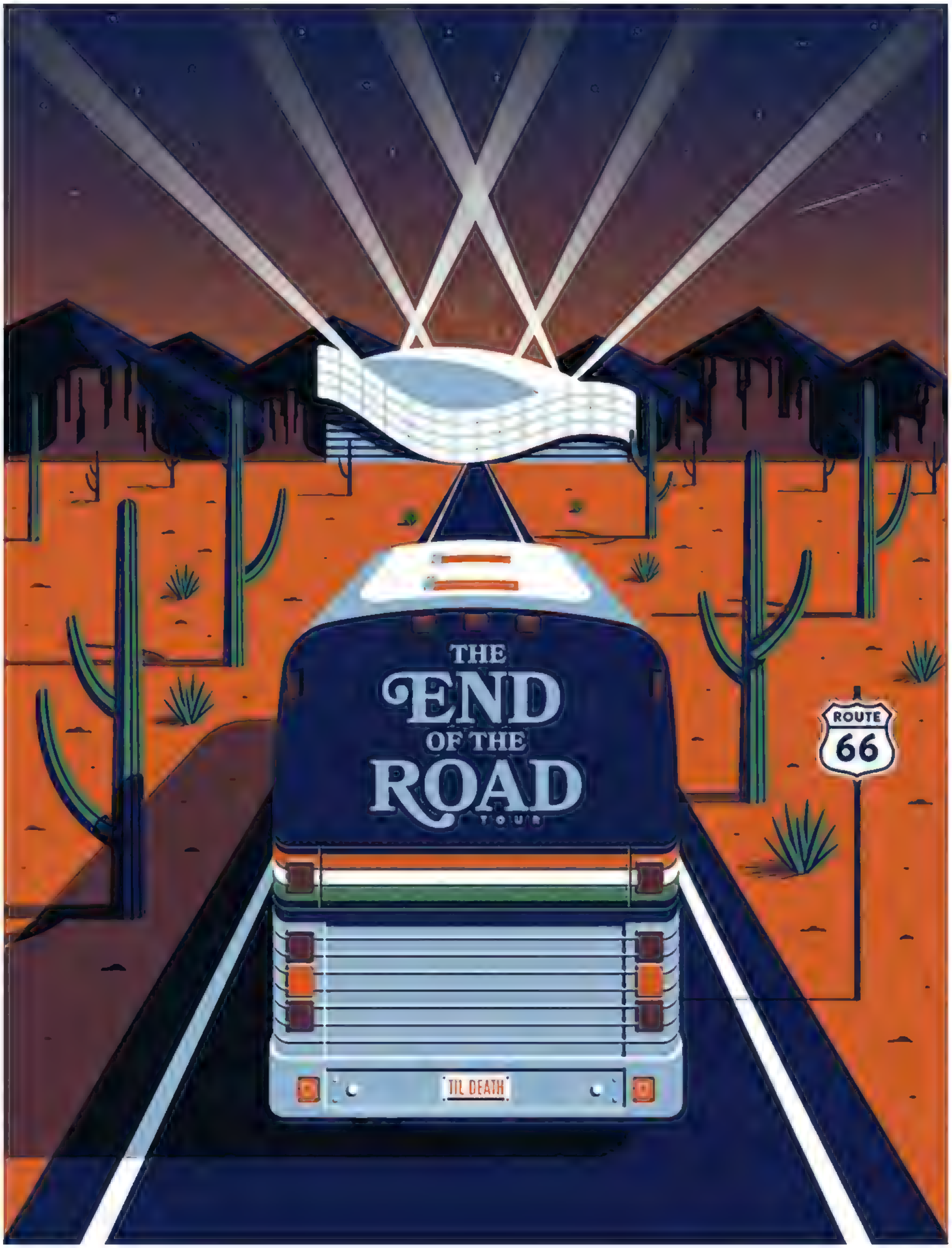
I can't complain. Everyone knows the big money is now generated by live shows rather than record sales, but not everybody appreciates how physically and psychologically arduous touring can be.

Even some younger musicians want out. Guitarist Nick McCarthy, 43, amicably quit Franz Ferdinand in 2016 rather than get on the road again, reminding me of something he once said about feeling numb on stage towards the end of an overextended tour: "There's thousands of people watching me and I'm not feeling anything." Guitarist Dave Keuning, 42, and bass guitarist Mark Stoermer, 40, are taking the unusual step of remaining in The Killers while sitting out the current tour. The Spice Girls – average age 43 and recently reunited for the second time – have reportedly dismissed the idea of a "gruelling mega world tour" for family reasons. For all its rewards, it's a fundamentally extreme and unnatural lifestyle. It wears you down. Sometimes it breaks you.

Fans are, by their nature, greedy. They want more music, more shows, more contact with the musicians they love. What is an encore if not a nightly ritualisation of that refusal to say goodbye? Artists are greedy, too – if not for money, then for applause. It's an intoxicating addiction. As Randy Newman told me last year: "I've wondered all my working life why people don't retire in showbusiness and it's fairly simple. There's nobody applauding at home, so we keep going." But anyone who's witnessed 75-year-old Brian Wilson's shellshocked demeanour on stage, or the terrible state of Mark E Smith on the final Fall tour, must have been moved to question the wisdom of rocking till you drop. Paul Simon said in his retirement statement that he'd often wondered what it would feel like to stop. "Now I know: it feels a little unsettling, a touch exhilarating and something of a relief."

Simon added that getting off the road doesn't have to mean total abdication; performing without travelling is an enticing prospect. In 2014, the famously tour-shy Kate Bush performed a 22-night residency in London, where the single location allowed for audaciously elaborate stage design that could never have been loaded on and off trucks every night. Bruce Springsteen, 68, recently completed an acclaimed 16-week run on Broadway even as a question mark hangs over the future of The E Street Band. Aretha Franklin, 76, has talked about opening a club in Detroit where she could still make occasional impromptu appearances. Residencies may be bad news for fans who don't live in the right cities but they chart a promising path between an exhausting world tour and not performing at all.

Perhaps there's a brand new solution on the horizon. The visionary stage designer Es Devlin, whose work for the likes of Beyoncé and Adele has changed the face of arena and stadium concerts, recently revealed that she was working on a radically innovative project with Abba. The plan, she she told an audience in London in January, is to blend newly recorded vocals, original recordings and groundbreaking visuals into a kind of virtual tour, a "choir through time", that would operate on a different artistic plane to the tawdry gimmick of holograms. Whether people will flock to see "Abba" when Abba aren't physically present remains to be seen, but in this chilling new era of deaths and retirements it feels like a necessary experiment. Of course, we all hunger to have the real thing for as long as possible, but we should acknowledge that our appetite sometimes takes a higher toll than we imagine. If you love somebody, let them go.


THE
END
OF THE
ROAD
TOUR
ROUTE
66
TIL DEATH

Politics

May's polls could ruin the PM

It's local election season next month and this time the stakes are of national – and actually international – importance

Story by **Matthew d'Ancona** Illustration by **Lee Healey**

On Thursday 3 May, local elections will be held throughout England... No, no, don't turn the page. This actually matters. Bear with me.

Most people, it is true, do not bother to vote in such contests, let alone read about them. Turnout in last year's council elections was just under 29 per cent, pitifully low compared to the 72 per cent of registered voters who turned out for the 2016 EU referendum. It's not that people don't care about their wheelie bins, neighbourhood services and local education, they just don't believe that councils have the resources or competence to make much of a difference.

Challenging this apathy is a generational task. It involves the delegation of meaningful powers to local authorities, including much greater flexibility over how much they tax and borrow and what they can do without permission from Whitehall.

In the meantime, these contests have a secondary function which, in particular circumstances, can be of the greatest importance. When Westminster politics is as febrile and nervous as it is right now, local elections act as a snapshot of the national mood, a grand opinion poll to be scoured for significance.

This is not necessarily rational: in the 2014 locals, Ed Miliband's Labour won the largest share of the vote for the fourth year running, achieving net gains of six councils and 324 council seats. Yet, a year later, David Cameron defeated Miliband in the general election, securing the Conservative Party its first outright majority since 1992.

But this is not really the point. Politicians are superstitious creatures, always over-interpreting the signs and signals they see all around them. Though they claim not to draw national conclusions from local results, this is what Edmund Blackadder would call "a lie, of sorts". As the results tumble in from dingy leisure centres on polling night, they do little else – fretting and hand-wringing about the potential implications for their respective parties in the Commons. In that regard, this year is a doozy.

There will be elections to all 32 London boroughs, 34 metropolitan boroughs, 68 district and borough councils and 17 unitary authorities, as well as mayoralty contests in the London boroughs of Lewisham, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Watford.

The results, naturally, will be a complex patchwork of political outcomes, determined, in most places, by more than voters' opinions of Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn.

No matter: whatever they claim to the contrary, Tory and Labour strategists will be poring over the data to see how they are doing on the national stage. And Conservative MPs, for their part, will be wondering whether the outcome is bad enough to justify a strike on the flailing prime minister.

According to a YouGov poll for Queen Mary University Of London in February, the governing party is on course for a melt-down in London and may lose flagship boroughs such as Wandsworth, Westminster and Barnet. Even Kensington And Chelsea, which has been in Tory hands for half a century, could fall, as voters reel from the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Outside London, the Tories may do better – Labour has been struggling in Birmingham, for instance, and support for Ukip is in free-fall. But obliteration in the capital would be a punch in the Conservative solar plexus, a symbolic indignity disproportionate to its actual statistical significance. London, after all, is where Tory MPs live and work for most of the week. They would feel like illegal aliens in a city that hated them – a sentiment close enough to the truth to drill into their collective psyche.

Since last year's general election fiasco, the Conservative Party has been stabilised only by the collective fear that changing its leader could make matters worse. Its relative docility masks inner terror; its inaction is the paralysis of a blue-rosetted bunny in the headlights.

But a bad night in May might force MPs to act. The party rules require 48 of them to request a vote of confidence in the leader – a test of the sort that did for Iain Duncan Smith in 2003. It is not a step to be taken lightly: if the PM lost the vote, a protracted leadership contest would then be held, disrupting the Brexit negotiations and more or less putting government on hold.

It would be hard, too, for the victor to remain in Number Ten long without holding a general election. And – so febrile is contemporary politics – there is absolutely no way of knowing whether May's successor would definitely fare better against Corbyn.

The trouble is that all the available options are risky for the Tories, including (and perhaps especially) standing by the deeply damaged prime minister. It would not take much to tip them into rebellion.

Sport

So, will England stay the home of football?

Selling television rights to overseas networks that pay the most but deliver the least may one day force the Premier League to start staging matches beyond these shores

Story by **Martin Samuel**

If you're thinking of visiting Sydney in the near future, a few tips that may help: the coastal walk from Bondi to Coogee is breathtaking; the Manly ferry affords wonderful views of the harbour and beyond; and the chicken fricassée at Restaurant Hubert is outstanding. Oh, and don't trust Scruffy Murphy's if it tells you it's got the football on. That's how we ended up on the corner of Goulburn Street at 2.15am one Monday morning, talking to a man through a wooden shuttered door.

"Are you open?"

"No. We shut at 2am."

"But you said you were showing the Manchester derby."

"We're closed."

"But your website advertised it."

"We're shut, mate."

So, Sydney: wonderful place. Scruffy Murphy's: big fibbers. Anyway, a taxi driver told my pal about a place in Surry Hills that might show it. So we rerouted to the Madison Hotel, where it promised you could watch the football and was actually sincere. Open 24 hours, the Madison, if you feel the need. Not the most salubrious venue, mind. If you're still going at 4am on Monday morning in Sydney, chances are you started Saturday. There used to be a Monday-night club in London called Fubar. It stood for Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition, because if you were still out from the weekend come Monday, you most certainly were. The Madison worked on the Fubar principle, apart from one old bloke, the newly arrived party of two from Scruffy Murphy's and some construction workers on a break. Occasionally, night owls would stagger in from the pokie machines next door to get another drink, announce themselves to be huge Arsenal fans, blink uncomprehendingly at the screen for two minutes then stagger out again. Someone's girlfriend seemed in permanent need of a light or some conversation, which was going to get some poor sod in trouble sooner or later, judging by the state of her boyfriend. So we stayed focused on the TVs showing the game. And all the time I was thinking, "I used to be able to do this from my hotel bed."

And you could in Australia. Every game, every weekend. As someone who covers The Ashes and makes occasional dashes to catch Andy Murray in an Australian Open final, it came in very handy. You'd arrive, ragged with jet lag but unable to sleep, and be kept company through the night by our own dear Premier League. Three games live, the rest on delay. It was the same wherever you went. I've watched Arsenal in Ahmedabad and Charlton in Karachi, but slowly the football is disappearing from the screens. The cricket correspondents who expected to be able to follow their teams on the last winter visit to India, discovered the rights were now owned by a HD-only channel and HD televisions were not in great supply. And Premier League football in Australia is now in the hands of telco Optus. I stay in reasonable hotels. None of them had Optus. It's probably like BT Sport.

The Premier League has been good for Optus, because in the first six months of its three-year deal it reported 201,000 new customers, its biggest improvement in six years. Telstra, a rival, added only 79,000 in the same time period. Yet coverage and visibility of the Premier League is in decline. In Optus' first year, using November 2016 as a sample month, press reports on Premier League football fell by 29 per cent. If people are not watching it, they're not talking about it, and if people aren't talking about a subject, the press loses interest. The Premier League sold to the highest bidder – the deal is reportedly worth £100 million – but subscribers are tired of paying across so many formats. The #OptusEPL hashtag has been matched by another: #OptusOut. Equally, Optus will not reveal their viewing figures for Premier League football, which is never a good sign.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, some clubs are beginning to worry about the impact of this commercial short-termism on their global audience and wish to reopen discussion on the dreaded 39th game. Richard Scudamore, the Premier League executive chairman, claims still to have the scars from that particular battle. Yet some powerful clubs reportedly remain in favour, not least Manchester City, who may be owned in Abu Dhabi but have a Spanish hierarchy led by CEO Ferran Soriano. He knows that La Liga are already exploring the idea of games abroad, which would see Real Madrid and Barcelona included in the package. The Italian Super Cup – Italy's equivalent of the Community Shield – was first played abroad in 1993 and has travelled on eight occasions since. The 2017 edition, in Rome, was the first one to take place at home since 2013. The same with France's Trophée Des Champions, last played at a domestic stadium in 2008 and since taken to four continents.

England could hire out the Community Shield, which is not greatly loved by the supporters of the major teams that usually get there, but a bona fide league programme abroad, one weekend in which all Premier League clubs travel to five or ten of the highest-bidding venues, is viewed as the Holy Grail of export and consumer awareness. That this would corrupt the league, by giving one team an extra fixture against Manchester City and another an additional match with Stoke, is never the concern of the money men. Scudamore hasn't actually gone off the idea, either – he just doesn't fancy the backlash a second time, with fans and the media almost universally hostile. Maybe he would be more amenable if the clubs take the heat. Maybe the 39th game will be like unpopular plans for building development: resubmitted and resubmitted until all the campaigners are so exhausted that one day they slip through.

There is, of course, a third way, a way to continue growing the Premier League globally without expecting half of Manchester to decamp to Singapore or adding a random factor to the competition even more pronounced than the refereeing of Bobby Madley. They could let people watch it. They could sell the rights not necessarily to the highest bidder but to a very high bidder who also has the reach to take the game into most homes. That way, the fans would not be at the mercy of executives or the misleading claims of Scruffy Murphy's. If you've ever been on Goulburn Street at 2am, you'd understand.

Cyberspace

Who watches the webmasters?

When sites we all use every day host, encourage and enable the internet's worst monsters, it's time the billionaire tech giants stopped fighting regulation

Story by **Tony Parsons** Illustration by **Marcus Merritt**

When MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee questioned representatives of Google, Facebook and Twitter in March last year about the manifestly unlawful filth that they routinely permit on their platforms, Labour's Yvette Cooper asked Google's public affairs chief, Peter Barron, if his company did any proactive work to remove what she called "clearly illegal content, including terrorism and online child abuse".

"No," said Mr Barron.

And you can't be much clearer than that.

Barron then proceeded to make the defence that is always made by Google, Facebook and Twitter when they are accused of being apathetic about the avalanche of toxic waste that pollutes their platforms: there is just too much of it, Your Honour.

"We have 400 hours of video uploaded to YouTube every minute," sighed the man from Google. "We don't want illegal content on our platforms and when flagged to us we remove that as quickly as possible."

The head of public policy at Twitter, Nick Pickles, offered the same excuse: "There are 500 million tweets every day," Pickles pointed out. "If you want pre-moderation of internet platforms then there may well be no internet platforms."

But this total indifference to their own content is starting to look as though it could ultimately be bad for their bottom lines. Google, Twitter and Facebook are replacing traditional media without being bound by anything resembling the laws and regulations that have constrained publishers for 100 years.

But is a digital Dodge City really what advertisers crave?

Argos and Deutsche Bank were among the many companies that recently found their ads on Google-owned YouTube accompanied by videos of scantily dressed prepubescent girls, which had been viewed millions of times. And why would any global brand want their product tainted by YouTube's indifference to that?

The giant digital platforms have played Pontius Pilate from day one, washing their hands of the sick, the violent, the illegal. But their cop-out claim that it is not their job, but the public's, to police their sites is starting to look increasingly lame.

ProPublica, an investigative news organisation, reported that Facebook has allowed advertisers to target users interested in the subject "how to burn Jews", while Twitter allows what it calls "non-offending paedophiles" to exchange images, thereby edging child abuse closer to legitimacy.

And this is not the brave new online world we were sold. This is a 21st century nightmare in which the big tech profits by providing a buffet for the lowest impulses of mankind. What exactly has to happen before we say enough?

Just two months after the exchange between Cooper and Barron, Salman Abedi detonated a bomb at an Ariana Grande concert in the Manchester Arena, inflicting horrific, life-changing injuries on 64 people and killing 22 more, including many teenagers and an eight-year-old girl.

Abedi had learned how to make his bomb from a 30-minute film that he watched on YouTube, featuring a balaclava-clad terrorist identified as Muhammad Al-Muhajir speaking in Arabic, but which had English subtitles. YouTube removed the film but, as frequently happens with "flagged" content on YouTube, by the end of the year it was again being shared on Google's networks, including Google Drive and Google Photos.

"What this deeply disturbing video's reupload shows is that Google has significant gaps in its very recent effort to combat terrorist content online," said David Ibsen of the Counter Extremism Project, a nonprofit NGO that fights online recruitment of terrorists.

The video on YouTube that inspired Abedi gives in-depth instructions on how to create triacetone triperoxide, an explosive made from everyday household items, an IED recipe used in at least six terror atrocities in Europe, including the Ariana Grande concert. Google insisted it was very, very cross about those naughty terrorists teaching nutjobs how to commit mass murder on their platform and remained "strongly committed to being part of the solution to tackling violent extremism". But, as always, Google repeated that it was up to the public to police their sites. If you do not want toxic waste pumped into society's bloodstream, ran Google's craven cop-out, then report it as soon as you see it.

"We remove content violating these policies when flagged by our users," said a Google spokesman.

And here is the rotten heart of the problem. Google gives the impression of feeling no shame that the blood of those murdered children in Manchester, including that eight-year-old girl, will be forever splattered across its rainbow-coloured logo.

Susan Wojcicki, chief executive of YouTube, vows to create a 10,000-strong police force in 2018 to counter the terrorist propaganda on the site. Will this mean more than a crew of spotty interns halfheartedly gawping at their laptops? Will YouTube get tough on terrorists? We shall have to wait and see. But on all the evidence so far, Google appears to feel no real sense of social responsibility. The giant internet platforms seems to feel no guilt about the crimes that they have encouraged and appears to see no need for any meaningful editorial governance beyond mealy mouthed expressions of remorse when there is another mass murder, or another aid worker beheaded, or another child drooled over in the paedophiles' playground: the comments section. There is no sense that anything will ever change.

Why should it?

Because there is one law for newspapers, magazines, radio and television. And for the likes of Google, Facebook and Twitter, there is no law at all.

You once had to work really hard to get your filth.

One of my first grown-up jobs in journalism was being embedded with the vice squad of West End Central, the police responsible for monitoring Soho before the one-room brothels and illegal drinking dens were replaced by tapas bars and private members' clubs. The vice squad would raid sex shops and sometimes uncovered material that still haunts me 30 years later. But if you wanted to purchase this trash then you had to venture to that Soho backstreet and risk getting arrested. No more.

Now the most graphic child abuse imaginable – and things that no normal mind can possibly imagine – are just a couple of clicks away. All the impulses that once hid in the shadows now feel free to strut and preen in the light of those ever-glowing screens. This is perhaps the most serious allegation that can be laid at the door of Google: thanks to the digital giant, what were once abominations are starting to look normal.

The *Times* reported that some of the world's most famous brands were advertising on YouTube alongside videos of children that had attracted hundreds of prurient comments from unapologetic paedophiles. Adidas, BT, Amazon, Mars and TalkTalk were among brands that advertised on films often posted by children, which, because of their content – young girls in their underwear, young girls lounging in bed, young girls doing the splits – had the paedophiles crawling out from under their rocks.

One film of a young girl in a nightdress, accompanied by ads from Cadbury and Michael Kors, had a staggering 6.5 million views. "I would like to be your stepfather to grope you every night," said one of the less graphic comments.

Another video, with more than four million views, showed a girl in her vest and pants rolling on a bed full of cuddly toys. "I would like to kiss your fragrant panties," wrote one commentator. Amazon, Stella McCartney and Enfield Council all advertised their wares with this popular film while YouTube's algorithms helpfully suggested similar videos, including one showing naked children having a bath. It was too much.

On the eve of Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year, some global brands felt compelled to remove their advertising campaigns from YouTube, including Adidas, which said that the social platform's craven catering to the paedophile market was "completely unacceptable".

"Yet again, it appears that YouTube's rhetoric about taking child safeguarding seriously nowhere matches its actions," said Tory MP Tim Loughton. "Their platforms are in danger of being used as a sweet shop for paedophiles."

"This is yet another example of why it is not good enough for sites such as YouTube to mark their own homework," said Tony Stower of the National Society For The Protection Of Cruelty To Children. "Government intervention is vital."

National newspapers have seen their advertising revenue fall off a cliff over the past few years, as companies rushed to throw money at digital media. But with an estimated 50,000 paedophiles active on YouTube, monitored by a small team of unpaid volunteers, we are suddenly taking a turn on the digital highway that nobody ever saw coming.

YouTube gets 30 million visitors every day and generates £2.9 billion in revenue for Google every year. And yet the digital giant may discover that tomorrow does not belong exclusively to them.

For why the hell would any self-respecting company want to advertise its product in a "sweet shop for paedophiles"?

Promises, promises. Whenever there is another round of bad publicity, Google inevitably vows to get tough on those who would build bombs, rape children or dance on our graves.

After revelations in the *Times* that ads for Mercedes-Benz and Waitrose appeared on videos promoting Islamic State, more than 250 companies including Toyota and Coca-Cola pulled advertising revenue worth an estimated £540m. Google promised to do more. "We take this as seriously as we've >>

>> ever taken a problem," Philipp Schindler, Google's chief business officer, told the *New York Times*. "We've been in emergency mode." When children were murdered at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, Google promised to do more. When the video that inspired the bomber went back up, Google promised to do more. But doing more seems beyond it.

The *Huffington Post* reported that more content is being uploaded on YouTube every 60 days than the top three US TV networks have broadcast over the past 60 years. The statistics that web giants love to toss at indignant MPs – 330m active users on Twitter, two billion on Facebook, 1.3bn on YouTube – are, as they constantly admit, too much to control. If Google is a digital sewer, then it is a sewer the size of a planet. And business is booming

Despite the sporadic advertising boycotts and regular bouts of lousy publicity, Alphabet, the holding company for Google and YouTube, posted revenues of £20bn for the third quarter of 2017, including revenue earned from views of "inappropriate" content. And what do millions of perverts drooling over prepubescent children matter next to £20bn of profit? Or when Forbes lists you as the world's second most valuable brand?

"With power comes responsibility," thundered the leader in the *Times* on the day of their "sweet shop for perverts" exposé.

But that is no longer true. Despite its global-spanning reach, Google does not demonstrate any sense of social responsibility that goes beyond lame PR spin and paying lip service to common human decency. The giant internet platforms will never police themselves. Somebody is going to have to do it for them.

Last summer, the country with the toughest laws in the world on hate speech, Germany, introduced legislation to levy fines of up to €50m (£44.6m) for digital platforms that do not remove "manifestly unlawful" material within 24 hours. Internet-freedom advocates worried that the law would have a detrimental impact on free speech. They need not have fretted: the terrorists and the child abusers carried on as normal on YouTube.

But Germany's Network Enforcement Act was the first sign that a national government could show some spine when confronting the internet platforms, the first indication that it does not have to be this way, that the rise and rise of Google and its kind should not mean child abuse and bomb making is suddenly socially acceptable.

Yes, the digital genie is out of the bottle. But that does not mean he should be free to do whatever he wants.

Profile

The double-breasted demagogue

Who needs morals when you've got the manners of Jacob Rees-Mogg?

Story by **Stuart McGurk** Illustration by **Nicola Jennings**

Of all the things that are said about Jacob Rees-Mogg – that he's Donald Trump in a top hat; that he's the worst of British values posing as the best; that he has a chin that looks like it's been in a pencil sharpener – the least important is the fact he's "not really posh".

Camilla Long, writing in the *Sunday Times* recently, became the latest to deliver this news, like someone who'd just discovered the Higgs boson, recalling a time when she was once in a features meeting at *Tatler* – the magazine for those with country piles – and his non-poshness was given as the reason they wouldn't feature him.

"We couldn't possibly," she reports, "write about someone who came from a long line of vicars."

The idea that a man with a 418-year-old mansion, an estimated £100 million fortune, butler, nanny, Rolls-Royce and Mayfair townhouse, who was educated at Eton and whose father edited the *Times*, is not posh suggests two things: one, a lack of understanding of where the rest of us consider the posh divide to be (spoiler: any one of those on their own); and, more importantly, even less understanding of what makes Rees-Mogg, Rees-Mogg.

The thought goes thus: he's not a real aristocrat, therefore his affected persona – which, if we're honest, is halfway between an Edwardian gent and a Victorian child catcher – is all part of a big ruse, the snootier-than-life "honourable member for the 18th century" who's able to bring together bigots from across the political and social divides, from reactionary cabbie bigots to snooty establishment bigots, all voting for an imagined England before immigration, but without having to hold their nose as they vote for Nigel Farage. As Matthew Parris put it in the *Times*, "His manners are perfumed, but his opinions are poison."

Some of the above explains his appeal, but it also misses the point. Rees-Mogg is only as affected posh as David Cameron is affected pleb; the fact they've shifted from where they started hardly makes them method.

The difference comes in perceived authenticity. Is Rees-Mogg authentic? Hah, no. Don't be silly. But he's fake in the right direction.

Like Trump before him, Rees-Mogg is *so* ridiculous and offensive and absurd that the thought goes he must be for real. Because who would lie about *that*? One thing the swivel-eyed zealots rarely do is flip-flop.

Rees-Mogg's greatest hits include: suggesting Somerset have its own time zone; suggesting all council workers wear bowler hats; breaking the record for the longest word uttered in parliament ("floccinaucinihilipilification", which means worthless); struggling to name a single pop song; speaking to a group that favours voluntary repatriation of black immigrants; wearing a top hat to Margaret Thatcher's funeral; disputing climate change; voting against – deep breath – a bankers' bonus tax, increasing the tax on those earning over £150,000, gay marriage, abortion even in cases of rape and incest and the 1998 Human Rights Act; and voting *for* private members' clubs being exempt from the smoking ban... as long as they don't serve

food. He's the least moral moral politician you could ever vote for.

Like Jeremy Corbyn, he turns being an outcast into an asset, sparring with the establishment of his own party as the de facto spokesman for the hard-Brexit ruddy right. Like Farage, he turns his lack of empathy into a media strategy, hoovering up the chance to turn up on TV and come down on the morally stupid side of anything. And, like Trump, the more offensive and outrageous the things he says, the more authentic and genuine to some he seems.

Never mind, of course, it means no one took any of these gomers seriously enough to give them positions of power in the first place. Never mind it means nuance and details are overpowered by the incurious, dumb and the myopically certain. Never mind the substance at all – feel the fervour.

Rees-Mogg didn't create the current political age of the dim-witted demagogue – but he is the first double-breasted one. He's not the first to favour ignoring experts and decrying unfavourable news as fake – but he is the first to favour the opera too. He is not the first and won't be the last to tell you all of your problems are down to the gays wrecking marriage or foreigners stealing jobs – but he is the first to do so with a smile.

There is a petition, called Ready For Rees-Mogg, that has, at the time of writing, been signed by more than 41,000 people.

There is a group, hoping to ape Momentum, called "Moggmentum".

There is a Facebook page, pushing him to run for power, with more than 20,000 followers willing to give him a shove.

One recent post: a link to a tabloid story in which Rees-Mogg once again makes plain that he wants to leave the EU with no questions asked – a clean break that appeals to those who don't deal in details.

"He eloquently exudes integrity," writes one commenter

"JRM is the only politician who knows what he is talking about," says a second.

"Why," says a third, "we could have an Empire again!" Unfortunately, the plan is not elaborated upon.

So far, Rees-Mogg has said – politely, as you'd expect – that he does not plan to run for prime minster, to challenge Theresa May, to take advantage of the Brexit shambles.

But then, as Henry Hill memorably put it in *Goodfellas*, "Nobody ever tells you they're going to kill you... Your murderers come with smiles." Which, really, could sum up Rees-Mogg the politician too. The double breasted demagogue, the Trojan Horse Tory.

Film

Death to the invincibles

Marvel is once again assembling its crowded roster, but what will it take to raise the stakes and cut some leads loose?

Story by **Stuart McGurk**

This month, *Avengers: Infinity War* will see Robert Downey Jr's Iron Man, Chris Hemsworth's Thor and Mark Ruffalo's Hulk all fight, just as they have done in two previous *Avengers* films and much of *Captain America: Civil War*. Jeremy Renner's Hawkeye, Chris Evans' Captain America, Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow... they will be fighting too. Also fighting: Benedict Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange, Tom Hiddleston's Loki, Elizabeth Olsen's Scarlet Witch, Don Cheadle's War Machine, Anthony Mackie's Falcon. And fighting with them will also be Tom Holland's Spider-Man, Paul Rudd's Ant-Man, Paul Bettany's The Vision and Tessa Thompson's Valkyrie. Joining this fight will also be the Guardians Of The Galaxy, so that's Chris Pratt's Star-Lord, Vin Diesel's Groot, Bradley Cooper's Rocket, Dave Bautista's Drax and Zoe Saldana's Gamora. And a fight wouldn't be a fight if the cast of *Black Panther* – lead by Chadwick Boseman – weren't also involved and so they will all fight too.

Exhausted yet? When the first *Avengers* was released in 2012, it was a genuine Hollywood event: solo films had established the main characters and here they were, all together in one ultra-film, as deliriously exciting and unlikely as watching your favourite TV detectives club together. (Hello, Poirot, meet Holmes, Columbo and Miss Marple... You'll be working together.)

But that excitement has come with diminishing returns, and with the third and fourth films – yes, *Infinity War* will be a two-parter, presumably so everyone gets four minutes of screen time rather than two – now seemingly attempting to cram in every single superhero introduced so far, it's worth asking if we've reached peak Marvel? After all, what good can come out of a film with 30 lead roles in which no one ever dies? Once you realise that Marvel's owner, Disney, needs each character to continue for both their solo films and their faces on lunch boxes, it does somewhat take away the tension in any given battle scene. Never mind their supposed powers: they're franchise-invincible. Though it's the latter that gives the franchise some hope.

Contracts for key Marvel players such as Downey Jr, Evans, Hemsworth and Johansson – the original Avengers, essentially – are all set to run out with the second part of *Infinity War*, set to be released in May 2019, which poses an interesting question. Might – gasp! – Disney do the decent thing and start killing some of their heroes off?

The *Avengers* movies don't provide water-cooler moments because, unlike, say, *Game Of Thrones* or even the new *Star Wars* films, there's no shocking death of a character we've come to love; think *Thrones'* infamous "Red Wedding" massacre or Han Solo getting a lightsaber in the gut.

But with contracts up and too many people for too little screen time, let's hope Disney can finally be bold and get some *Avengers* blood on its hands. **GQ**

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR IS OUT ON 27 APRIL

The Hotshot

Rich The Kid

Picture it: you're an up-and-coming rap star from Atlanta. Sure, everyone from Ty Dolla Sign to Kendrick Lamar are fans and collaborators, and, yes, you even smashed up an orange Lamborghini with a baseba l bat while performing with tne latter at tne Brits. But while others would be happy hashtagging "#lifegoals" at this point, Rich The Kid was busy hinting to everyone that the likes of Kanye West and Frank Ocean might be featured on his debut album, *The World Is Yours*. Truly: Life. Goa s.

The Stream Queen

Dua Lipa

It says everything about the Brits' new golden girl – five nominations (the most for any female solo artist) and two wins (British Breakthrough Act and British Solo Female Artist) – that she wore what can only be described as a space leotard on stage and the gowns of what resembled four Disney princesses stapled together on the red carpet. Put another way, Lipa can do anything. Evidence: not only was the 22-year-old "New Rules" star Spotify's most-streamed female artist in the UK last year, but she's also on the cover of this very magazine. Bow down: pop's stream queen is here.

The Brit Awards Class of 2018

For the 38th outing of the UK's premier pop extravaganza, GQ invited homegrown talent and international superstars to our exclusive backstage studio at The O2. Before playing host to the Warner Music afterparty, we were joined by the evening's presenters, winners and an entourage of all-knowing glitterati insiders, who shared their secrets and posed for the most extraordinary one-off group image we've ever shot. Here, we celebrate 26 of the names and faces who made it a night to remember

Photographs by **Gavin Bond** Story by **Stuart McGurk**

The Three Amigos

Ed Sheeran. Rita Ora & Stormzy

It's not often you get three solo artists with 22 Brit Award nominations and seven wins between them posing for the same portrait. But it's even rarer when one (Stormzy) is a politically protesting grime artist, one (Sheeran) is a ballad-happy troubadour and the third (Ora) is being lifted into the air. Still, the lifters had reason to be happy, with Sheeran having won one Brit (Global Success Award) and Stormzy taking home two (Mastercard British Album Of The Year and British Male Solo Artist), along with a l the night's headlines for his furious, rain-drenched performance calling out Theresa May for Grenfell.

The Role Model

Adwoa Aboah

Adwoa Aboah, it's fair to say, has had quite the 12 months. There was the British Fashion Council's prestigious Model Of The Year award, which saw her beat off stiff competition from the likes of Gigi and Bella Had d There was the first cover of Edward Enninful's new British *Vogue*. And before that there was, of course, the small matter of the *GQ* Woman Of The Year Award last September and her first *GQ* cover. Compared to that lot, partying at the Brits is small fry, but on the other hand, how often does she bump into Dave Grohl on the runway?

The Bright Spark

Ellie Goulding

Granted, if you're Dua Lipa and are wearing a dress that keeps half your entourage in work by just keeping you moving, public transport to the Brits isn't an option. But one benefit from time out of the limelight's expedience. To cut to it: Ellie Goulding got the Tube. But fear not, Goulding fans, the two-time Brit Award winner is back in the studio, with a fourth studio album due out later this year, and she still found the time to publicly rebuke Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, the niece of the French National Front leader, for using her music at a far-right event in the US. *Viva la commuter!*

The Establishment

Foo Fighters

How did Foo Fighters celebrate their fifth Brit Award to date, this year for International Group? By what any typical screw-you-this-is-real-rock-and-roll band would do, of course: dutifully forming a human pyramid for *GQ*'s photographer and grinning like maniacs. The band performed "The Sky Is A Neighbourhood" from their latest album, *Concrete And Gold*, sitting atop the roof of a house flanked by giant pine trees. Because why not?

The Hottest Host

Jack Whitehall

For a lifelong football fan, it was no doubt a thrill for comedian Jack Whitehall to introduce England and Tottenham Hotspur star striker Harry Kane to the stage to present an award with "Havana" singer Camila Cabello. It was no doubt an even bigger thrill for Whitehall to do so as a fan of Arsenal, Tottenham's archrivals, and so introduced him by saying the Brit Award would be the only trophy he'd get his hands on this season. Touche

The New Girl

Camila Cabello

Camila Cabello's entrance to the world stage last year as a superstar in the making may have been sudden, but not only did the Cuban-American 22-year-old's breakthrough single "Havana" – an addictive slice of breezy summer pop – stay five weeks at No1, the singer also broke records when her solo debut album, *Camila*, topped 99 iTunes charts worldwide. No wonder, then, that she was chosen to present the night's biggest award, International Male Solo Artist, to Kendrick Lamar.

The Legend

Nile Rodgers

Hard to know who was more thrilled and for what reason: Stormzy for receiving the Mastercard British Album Of The Year award; Stormzy for receiving the Mastercard British Album Of The Year award from the hands of Chic genius Nile Rodgers; Nile Rodgers for the fact Stormzy won ("It felt right," he later said. "I had such a sense of pride"); Rodgers for Stormzy's Grenfell protest song; or Rodgers again for the fact he was there at all, having recently overcome a cancer scare. Fair to say, though, it was a good moment.

The Talent Scouts

Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson & Tom Jones

Talent show judges: in their own small way, the *Game Of Thrones* of light entertainment. Take the example of Olly Murs, who became famous as a performer via House *X Factor* but then defected to House *Voice* at the beginning of the year as a judge – the talent show equivalent of House Stark (solid, stable, a bit boring). The result? Victory for *The Voice*. Having joined the pictured Tom Jones and Jennifer Hudson, the series seven premiere in January was the night's most-watched television show, with a peak audience of 6.1 million.

The Prince Of Pop

Justin Timberlake

It's fair to say that after singlehandedly bringing sexy back over a decade ago (thanks for that, Justin) and ensuring we hadn't forgotten about the suit and tie a few years later, what we didn't necessarily expect from Justin Timberlake was a full-on country-R&B-pop-fusion comeback record called *Man Of The Woods*. Or, for that matter, a Brits duet with country star Chris Stapleton. But then reinvention is what the 37-year-old multihyphenate has always been great at. Next up: grime. (Note: lie.)

The Lone Star

Chris Stapleton

It's a truth often acknowledged that Justin Timberlake does not often duet with country singers whose beards are so long they're in danger of contact with the stage. But what a beard, what a stage and what a singer. Thirty-nine-year-old Chris Stapleton is a triple Grammy Award winner (Best Country Solo Performance, Best Country Song and Best Country Album) so perhaps Timberlake was similarly in awe. When *GQ* asked Stapleton what his mother wanted him to be, he fixed us in the eye and, no nonsense, simply replied, "Whatever I wanted to be."

The Huuuuuge Model

Hailey Baldwin

It was, perhaps, apt. Of *course* it was model Hailey Baldwin – daughter of Stephen but more specifically niece of *Saturday Night Live* Trump-irritator-in-chief Alec – who was given the task of presenting Gorillaz with the British Group award. After all, who knows more about prestigious things given to fake people than her?

The Valley Girls

Haim

LA-based proto-millennial sisters specialising in R&B-infused neofeminist synth-pop: you know Haim defy easy explanation by just how much explanation you need to use to even try. What's certain is that Este, Danielle and Alana's sound is utterly their own and it saw them nominated for Best International Group for their second album, *Something To Tell You*. They d dn't win, but Este did "videobomb" Cheryl Tweedy so not a total loss.

The Voice

Sam Smith

Sam Smith's vo ce has become so synonymous with heartbreak – that quivering, quavering apology to love both lost and found – it must be disconcerting to hear him simply hum a tune. When, a bit of your mind must wonder, will the lovelorn paean to his ex begin... before you realise he's just making the tea. Smith performed his latest single – the sad, soulful (of course) hit *Too Good At Goodbyes* – at this year's Brits, and even though he wasn't nominated for any awards this time, we imagine the fact that his latest a bum, *The Thrill Of It All*, went straight to No1 will more than make up for it. **GQ**

Photography assistants
Roger Richards; Reece Pickering; Alex Cornes

GQ shot on location at The O2, 21 February 2018

DUA RULES

There never was a Plan B. At just three years old she took her first steps towards stardom and 19 years, two Brits and a billion YouTube views later, she's done it all on her own terms – not so much dancing on the glass ceiling as obliterating it. Meet the Madonna of Generation Z, the beguiling voice of screw-you love songs and sad-happy club tracks, pop's new alpha seductress: Dua Lipa

Story by **Stuart McGurk** Styling by **Anna Trevelyan**

Photographs by **Mariano Vivanco** Creative direction by **Paul Solomons**

Jacket by **Philipp Plein**, £3,370. plein.com. Lock earring by **Maria Tash**, £726. venusbymariatash.com. Earrings, Dua's own

Opposite: Coat by **The Kooples**, £345. thekooples.co.uk. Shoes by **Giuseppe Zanotti**, £965. giuseppezanotti.com. Hoop earrings by **Diaboli Kill**, £414. diabolikill.com. Lock earring by **Maria Tash**, £726. venusbymariatash.com

'I was done feeling sorry for myself. I flipped the script, made it seem like I was hotter than hell'

Jacket by **Christian Benner** £1 433. christ anbenner custom.com Shorts by **Cherry Vintage**, £135. cherryvintage.com, Shoes by **Giuseppe Zanotti**, £965. giuseppezanotti.com Hoop earrings by **Diaboli Kill**, £414. diabolikill.com. Lock earring by **Maria Tash**, £726, venusbymariatash.com. Rings, Dua's own

B

By her own estimation, Dua Lipa is suffering from a two-day hangover and a recently sprained finger. The latter is due to a mishap during the shoot she's just done at 3 Mills Studios in East London, the result of a flailing arm that flailed into another ("I've been told it's because the bone has grazed the bone, or something like that. It hurts"), the former the result of winning two Brit Awards – British Female Solo Artist and Breakthrough Act – and the subsequent partying that went on until the sun came up. "Maybe around six?" she guesses at her eventual bedtime.

That was Wednesday, this is Friday, and the hangover remains. She is in black leisurewear beneath the kind of red furry coat that makes her look like a cross between the Honey Monster and a stop sign and her long nails, painted blue, look like they belong in a sci-fi film.

"Is this a time to be healthy?" she ponders, before answering her own question. "Probably not." The driver, who had been expecting to take her directly to the airport – next stop, the Australian leg of a tour that's already lasted two years, via Abu Dhabi – is given instructions for a burger drive-by: "Patty & Bun, please."

"In Shoreditch?" he asks.

"Yes."

Route successfully re-routed, she shouts to her father ("Bye, Dad!), one Dugi Lipa, who by his own estimation is the proudest father in the country right now, before signing off with her trademark kiss, one that's spelt out as much as spoken: *"Mwah."*

And with that, we're off.

Back to the night before the night before, which really started the night before that. She invited all her friends over for a sleepover, she says, and so naturally got no sleep at all. "Yup, couldn't sleep. It was crazy. I was actually having heart >>

Jacket by **Tom Ford**, £3,390. tomford.com. Skirt by **Cherry Vintage**, £895. cherryvintage.com.
Hoop earrings by **Diaboli Kill**, £414. diabolikill.com. Lock earring by **Maria Tash**, £726. venusbymariatash.com. Rings, Dua's own

Opposite: Jacket, £5,747. Top, £700. Both by **Versace**, £1,285. versace com.
Boots by **Philipp Plein**, £5,835. plein.com. Earrings by **Diaboli Kill**, £414. diabolikill.com

‘I didn’t want to do those songs.
It’s not how I wanted to be successful’

>> palpitations, like from nerves. I can't remember the last time that happened."

She'd been nominated for five awards in total, including Best Video, Album and Single, which was the most for any female artist in Brits history and confirmed the 22-year-old as both the hottest act in the country right now – a thrilling cross between the confessional wit of Lily Allen and the dance-floor bangers of Rihanna – and something of her own internet ecosystem. Just a few days before, she learned that "New Rules" – her breakout mega-hit – had reached one billion hits on YouTube (making her the youngest female solo artist to have achieved the feat) when she was in the car on the way to the Brits rehearsals and noticed that YouTube had been kind enough to advertise the fact on all four sides of Old Street Roundabout. In December, Spotify announced the most-streamed artists of last year and guess who came in ahead of the likes of Taylor Swift, Beyoncé and Ariana Grande as the most popular female artist of 2017? Her *GQ* photoshoot, meanwhile, came the day after appearing on *Saturday Night Live* – the definition of American acceptance – and she counts Chris Martin and Mark Ronson as both collaborators and fans.

The sky-high expectation, she says, came with its own high-class problem: the spectre of being nominated for five awards then failing to win a single one. Hence the failure to sleep, the heart palpitations and the afterparty photograph where she's upending a bottle of Patrón tequila directly into her mouth.

"Oh no..." she says when I inform her of this particular shot. "Yeah..." she adds, remembering. "Actually... Yeah. That was crazy. At one point I had three drinks in my hand. Then I was doing shots with someone on the table next to me." She smiles and shrugs. The shrug says, *I just won two Brits, whatcha gonna do?* "I didn't really care who saw me. I was like, it's my night, you know?"

The next day, she says, was simply spent on the sofa, with Deliveroo and an avalanche of congratulatory texts.

"It was the day to turn your phone off," she says. Did she actually do that? "Well, no."

She even got a congratulatory text from someone who was the subject of one of the songs – "an old flame" – but not, she adds, from her ex-boyfriend, model and chef Isaac Carew, who was the subject of another.

"No, not from my last ex-boyfriend, because he's boring. It was probably best that he didn't text, to be honest. I don't want to hear from him anyway."

Which is why Dua Lipa is such a phenomenon and why every ex of hers should be worried.

Dua Lipa has a grand total of ten tattoos, but each one is small, pencil thin, situated at odds and ends of her body, sentimental reminders and notes rather than elaborate artworks.

The first one, on her elbow, reads "Sunny Hill", which is the neighbourhood where her parents grew up in Kosovo before they moved to London and also the name of the foundation she has since started there. ("My dad's also helping start a festival, called the Sunny Hill Festival, which I'm going to perform at.")

Some are about her family. She first got an "R" and a "G" for her younger siblings, Rina and Gjin, on her left wrist, then added "mum + dad" on her right elbow. ("So now I have the whole family.")

Some are budget masterpieces. Both thumbs feature dancing people from the works of graffiti artist Keith Haring. ("My dancing thumbs!" she wrote on Instagram. "I can't afford an original Keith Haring piece just yet. I may as well just keep it on me!")

And some, in truth, don't mean an awful lot. There's the starburst tattoo on her right middle finger that she got to immortalise her friend's dead cat, Daisy; the word "angel" on her shoulder, because she wanted an angel on her shoulder; and, on her left forearm, an inked message which simply reads, "This means nothing." ("It means nothing.") Some are autobiographical. A palm tree on her left elbow, for instance, signifies the first month she spent writing songs in LA; an all-seeing eye on her inside right ankle was done after she moved into her current flat. ("For good luck, so nothing jinxes it.")

'At one point I had three drinks in my hand. I was doing shots. I didn't care who saw me. It was my night'

For each one, she says, she'll wait between six months to a year to get the next and only then if inspiration has struck. The most recent, done two weeks ago, is a delicately drawn piece of barbed wire in the shape of a heart on her left arm. This one, she says, is significant. It is part of the key to her success.

"I got that because I always wear my heart on my sleeve and I'm not going to change that. I'm never going to change myself, but it's in barbed wire because I should protect my heart no matter what, I think."

Lipa's first genuine hit – before the smash that was the billion-clicked "New Rules" – was "Hotter Than Hell", released in May 2016, the third single from her self titled album.

"I went through a tough break-up with someone who made me feel that I wasn't good enough," she says. "And I went to the studio so heartbroken about the situation, feeling like, you know, I want to write a sad song. Like, today is the day I want to write a sad song."

And so, she started, but soon became bored. "And it was like, I'm done with feeling sorry for myself, so I want to flip the script and make it seem like he can't get enough of me and that I was hotter than hell, even though I didn't feel that way."

The result – a thumpingly infectious floor-filler with Lady Gaga-esque hooks – set the tone. Leave the woe-is-me ballads to Adele and Sam Smith, Lipa had worked out a substrata: the screw-you love song that wasn't remotely lovesick, music that wore its heart on its sleeve, but with a barbed-wire edge.

"Hotter Than Hell" became an instant hit, peaking at No5 in the UK singles chart.

"Fans came up to me and they would say, 'My God, this made me feel really empowered.' And I thought, wow, that is really interesting that something that felt so therapeutic to write is also helping someone else and maybe this is the kind of direction I want to go in."

Spoiler: it was. Her next single, the club-ready going-out anthem "Blow Your Mind (Mwah)", honed the formula and featured lyrics such as, "Tell me I'm too crazy / You can't tame me / You can't tame me" and "If you don't like the way I talk, then why am I on your mind? / If you don't like the way I rock, then finish your glass of wine." It's the lovelorn fuck-you that you could dance to and one of the few songs in pop that tells you to drink up. It became her first song to chart in the US.

She even gave this unusual combo – songs that, quite confusingly, made you feel a bit sad and yet want to dance at the same time – a name. She christened her new genre "dance crying". Just don't look it up on Spotify yet.

The ultimate blessing came when her management asked who she'd love to work with. She said Chris Martin, so Martin was duly sent a few of her songs and before she knew it she found herself in his Malibu studio with the Coldplay frontman manically dancing around to her music. "*Yes*. During 'New Rules' and [latest single] 'IDGAF', he would get up and dance. It was so surreal, Chris Martin

dancing to my music. I remember saying to him, 'You've written one of my favourite songs ever, the Nelly Furtado song 'All Good Things (Must Come To An End)', and he was like, 'God, I forgot I wrote that.'" They ended up writing the ballad "Homesick", which Martin also features on.

Her second album, which she's working on at the moment, will also, she says, be a dance-weeper

"Yes, it's very much dance crying. It is a pop album that you're going to be able to dance to, but a lot of the songs are sad. They're about heartbreak and they're about going through some emotional manipulation." She ponders this. "It kind of sucks that that's the thing that really triggers my creativity, but happy things don't seem to do it for me."

It will also be less scattered, more focused on a single concept: "Now I feel it's a proper story. It's all relevant to one idea."

In all, after several delays, her debut album took two-and-a-half years, as she flatly refused to release it until she'd completely honed her sound.

She even, her manager Ben Mawson tells me, turned down several surefire smashes written by other songwriters as she didn't feel they suited her style.

"I shouldn't tell you what the songs were," says Mawson. "But there were two or three huge songs that ended up being massive No1s [for other female singers]. She was asked to feature on them and she didn't want to, because she didn't like the song. It just wasn't her."

Which side was he on? "I was kind of on her side, but it was a dilemma. Certainly some of the people at the label thought she should do it, but she was steadfast. She said, 'I don't want to do it. It's not how I want to be successful.' And those songs ended up being monster No1s. I think one was one of the biggest songs of the year."

Ironically, the only song on the album that she didn't either write or cowrite was "New Rules". But, unlike the songs she refused, this one – on the off-chance you're not one of the billion who have clicked on it – is a stomping call to female empowerment via the medium of not accepting your ex's booty call (sample wisdom: "If you're under him, you ain't getting over him"). It was a perfect match. It was also written by women – Emily Warren and Caroline Ailin – and they only wanted Lipa to sing it. "They said, 'We're not playing it to anyone. We're only playing it to you.'"

Still, Lipa's insistence on only doing material that's personal to her has had its downsides, not least the time she wrote "No Goodbyes", about a doomed relationship, while she was still in said doomed relationship.

"Yeah... That was really hard. Everything was going crazy. I was travelling so much and I kind of felt like I was letting someone down and not really allowing them to live their life, waiting for me. But I also used to share all my music with that person, you know? So when I would write songs, I would play them to him."

Wait, what? Didn't he realise that song was about their relationship?

"Well, no. The thing was, when I played him songs and I didn't want to let him know they were about him, I would say, 'Well, this song is about this person who is dealing with this crazy thing, so I just decided to base it on their stories and isn't it interesting?'"

And that worked? "Well, obviously he found out. But he's totally OK with it."

Despite Lipa's work being so confessional, she says the inherent sexism when it comes to female musicians means people assume it's anything but.

"For a female artist, it takes a lot more to be taken seriously if you're not sat down at a piano or with a guitar, you know? For a male artist, people instantly assume they write their own music, but for women, they assume it's all manufactured."

When I ask her about the Me Too movement and its effect on the music industry, she says, "Personally, I'm lucky in that I haven't really had any sexual harassment in any way. But I think [Me Too] is so important. You know, even from school, growing up with kiss chase or whatever, it's been ingrained in our heads that boys will be boys and it's harmless fun and no big deal and to brush things off. Like catcalling. To some it might not seem a lot, but it affects your mood, people get embarrassed about the way they dress. For lots of females, be it actresses, singers, models, no matter what it is, it's not being able to have the right to dress and wear how and what you want and be taken seriously."

And hence, back to Lipa's music: "When one person speaks up, it instantly gives another person courage to speak and it's the same with music. When you do speak about your own experiences, it's also the domino effect."

And so, the final tattoo, which sums up the fact it was worth the two-and-a-half year wait for something that was distinctly hers. It got the most prominent spot, there on her right hand, the one you can hardly miss.

"It's a reminder," she says, "of what those two-and-a-half years were like, trying to hone everything and making sure you stick to it until everything is perfect."

The tattoo is one word: *Patience*.

'The songs are about heartbreak. They're about going through emotional manipulation'

Rewind three days: Dua Lipa is lying on her back, on-stage in a packed O2 Arena, waiting for her act to start on a triangle that is about to lower her down to the stage. She remembers this part particularly as being the most out-of-body, because while she could hear the crowd, she couldn't actually see them. So, while listening to Foo Fighters winning Best International Group, she had a little moment, staring at the ceiling, where all this felt both unreal and unrealistic. How did she end up here?

"I was four metres up, lying down on the triangle thing, being like, *Oh my God, you're just about to perform at the Brits*. It just felt so crazy."

Earlier in the day, I'd watched as she went through her dress rehearsal. She hadn't so much danced across the stage as strode and skipped, the opposite of the aggressively sexual Rihanna or the cutesy provocation of Ariana Grande, who both seemingly put on a show for men. Lipa, in the best possible way, gives every impression of someone dancing around their living room for herself.

Lipa grew up in North West London with a father who had been a rock musician back in Kosovo, and a mother, Anesa, who had liked his music. They had left for London before Lipa was born. Conversation at the dinner table was always about music and her father would always play his music to Anesa before anyone else. Lipa would also play her music to Anesa and, later, for her boyfriends. "[Her mother] would always be honest," Lipa remembers.

Lipa was six, she says, when she wrote her first song, a tribute to her mother, and she still remembers the words:

When I grow up, can I wear your shoes?
When I grow up, can I use your lipstick?
When I grow up, can I be as pretty as you?

When I later speak to her father on the phone, he says he remembers the song well – they all laugh about it and sing it to Lipa at family gatherings – but is adamant she was even younger. >>

'The tattoo is a reminder of what those two-and-a-half years were like: patience'

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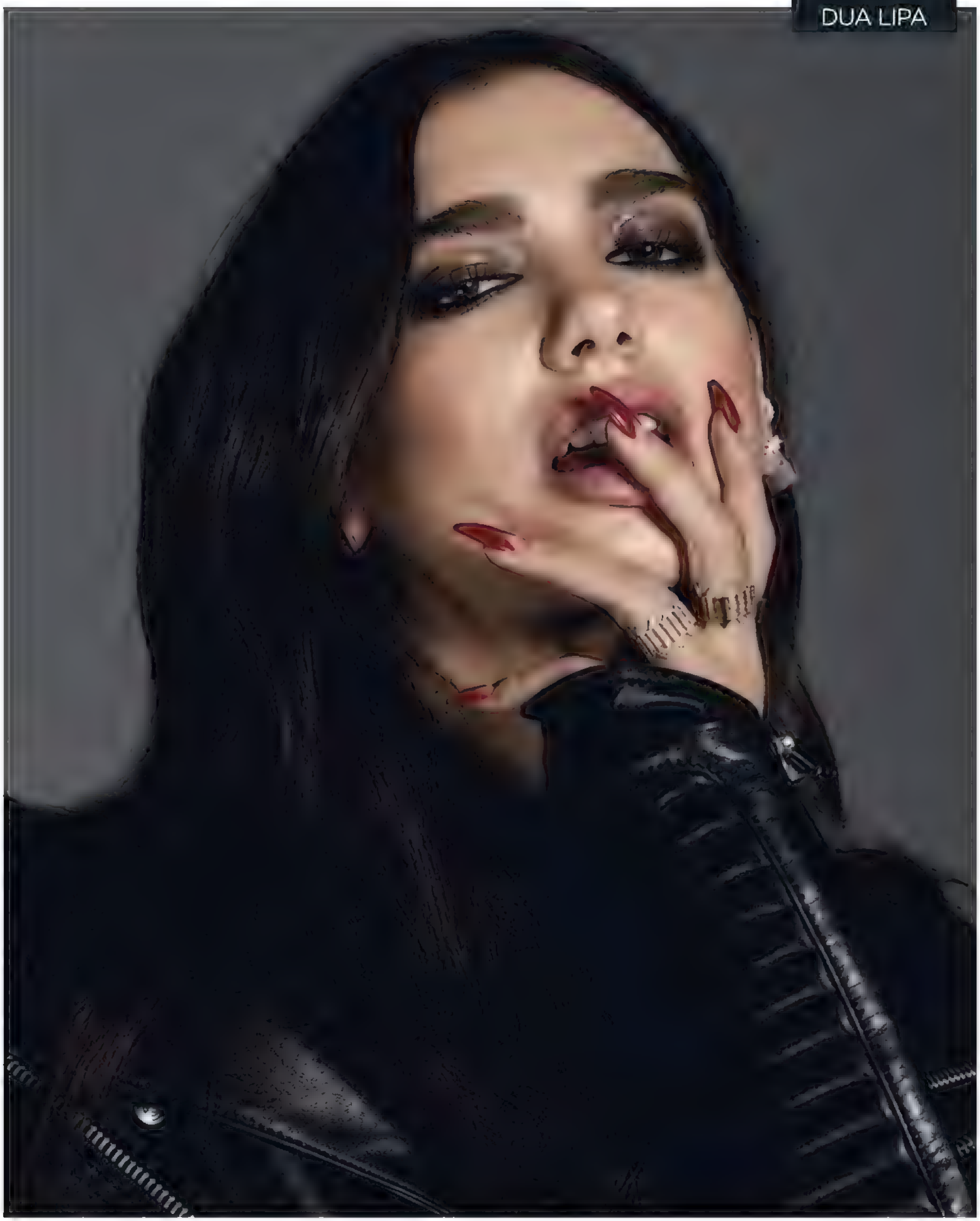

‘I was four metres up, lying down, being like,
“You’re about to perform at the Brits”’

>> "*Yes*, but she was tiny. I don't want to exaggerate this, but I actually think she was three or four. She was really tiny."

If the cliché of young singers thrust into the spotlight is the pushy parents shoving them there as a result of their own stunted ambition, then Lipa's story – like so much about her – subverts expectations.

When she was eleven, due to a job offer for her father "to do what I love in a place I love", the family moved back to Kosovo. She doesn't remember this as traumatic, but she found settling in hard – "I can speak the language, but I didn't understand the slang" – and struggled with the education system.

Yet it was there that she discovered new music. While she loved the likes of Nelly Furtado, Pink and Destiny's Child in London, everyone in Kosovo listened to hip hop. She remembers going to concerts for Method Man and 50 Cent. "That's another reason the first album took so long. I had all these different influences."

Before moving away from Britain, she'd already taken weekend classes at the famed Sylvia Young Theatre School and so, at 15, made a modest proposal to her parents: she would move back to London on her own, complete her GCSEs and A-Levels, attend Sylvia Young again and become a singer. Remarkably, they agreed.

Isn't that... a bit nuts? "Yeah. It was kind of crazy, but I've always been quite confident, I think." Did her parents take much convincing? "Um, surprisingly *not*."

Wasn't there, I later ask her father, any concern? "Well, she had all of her friends [in London] and she would stay up late at night just talking to them and what not. Kosovo wasn't really the place for her to be. But she hasn't just developed this self-assurance now. She was a very self-assured young lady." Also, he adds laughing, "She doesn't give you many options."

And so, Lipa moved to London and lived with a family friend who was doing her master's and was almost never at home. Lipa cooked – simple things such as pasta and grilled salmon – and, eventually, cleaned. "I was pretty OK until it came to the point where I was like, ahh, I've got to, like, tidy up after *myself*. I've got to, like, *clean*. I've got to, like, wash my clothes. And I was 15."

She also, improbably, had a run in with the law, after throwing bath foam out of her window and having it land on a passing constable. "I nearly got arrested. It's assaulting a police officer, apparently. I was just like, *Oh God, how am I going to tell them I live on my own?* My mum is going to have the biggest freak-out. This is what happens when you leave your kids alone." Thankfully, the officer in question didn't press charges.

Mostly, she either invited friends for sleepovers or FaceTimed her parents, who visited often. She also started doing cover versions (of Christina Aguilera, Joss Stone and others) and releasing them on YouTube, highlighting what was, even then, a distinctive, husky voice. The very thing that had once denied her entry to the school choir ("I was heartbroken. I cried that day" – she was eight) was now her selling point.

Several years, part-time jobs, a Sylvia Young graduation and vastly increased social-media following later, she eventually found her way to the offices of Mawson at the age of 17. Lipa's now-manager, who also looks after Lana Del Rey, was initially impressed with her "presence, personality and beautiful voice", but most of all her drive.

"That's really what stood out for me. I want to look in their eyes and see they really want it. Apart from her talents, one of her defining factors is ambition."

Specifically, he recalls the artist Lipa said she wanted to be like: "I remember Madonna came up. She didn't quite say directly, 'I want to be as big as Madonna', but Madonna was the reference point. That was a joy to our ears."

Talk to anyone in Lipa's circle – managers, publicists, producers – and they will all say one thing: she tours relentlessly. Her current tour will see her, by August, perform 92 times in venues spanning the world, and which itself follows two smaller tours last year and the year before that. Partly, this is the reality of a streaming-dominated industry where the big money no longer comes from record sales, but it's also the result of her relentless ambition.

"I am literally on tour for the rest of my life," she says, smiling. "I've been on tour for two years and I've got another year to go. But I love it so much. Nothing beats it." She is the only celebrity I've ever met who claims to even enjoy doing promo. She refused, she says, to ever have a Plan B because she didn't want the safety of some thing to fall back on.

'I've been on tour for two years and I've got another year to go. Nothing beats it. I'm on tour for the rest of my life'

Mawson says he does worry. "My concern is around her getting too exhausted, because she doesn't know how to say no to work."

It helps she's a relentless planner. When I first meet her in New York after the *GQ* shoot, she spells out her next day, which she's already written down and time-allocated: lie in until 10am, workout, breakfast, shower, face mask, warm-ups, voice ready at 2pm...

On her days off, back home, free time is similarly bent to her will: "Like allocating time for a food shop. Or if I do it online, what time will I expect the delivery? How long I would then spend at home?" Friends, she says, get two-hour slots: "Two hours on one, two on another..."

When she lived on her own at 15, she would even diarise times for cooking and cleaning. "It's not something that's developed because of my career!" she says. "I've always been like this."

Back in the car, as we wind our way through East London towards the airport for Lipa's day-long journey to Australia, she considers what her long-haul flight has in store. It is, as you might imagine, tightly planned.

As soon as she's on the plane, she will change her watch to the destination time and, rather than eat when she is given food, will eat in sync with where she's going to and "force myself to sleep" in sync with it too, forever focusing on what's next.

Finally, there is one question I've been holding back, because it seems so stupid and obviously answerable. But our time is running out, so I ask it anyway.

What is it like being Dua Lipa right now? The person in the middle of the whirlwind?

"Amazing," she says without missing a beat. "It feels crazy and it's exciting and it's amazing, everything that's happening. Sometimes I do need to stop and pinch myself and be like, OK, this is happening and now I'm popping on a flight. It is crazy, but I love it and I'm riding a wave. It's everything I ever dreamed of and sometimes, when I feel tired and I want an extra hour in bed, I'm like, *this is everything I ever wanted*. And so I get up."

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Hidden Trauma

The untold story of how two British surgeons took on the wounded soldier's last taboo

During the worst years of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, hundreds of servicemen were flown to one hospital in Birmingham, where pioneering medics learned to treat injuries previously thought unsurvivable. Their legacy – and a legacy of that war – is the amputee servicemen whose lives they saved. And yet, as they explain, the worst physical injuries remain unseen – and almost always unspoken. Here, GQ's Jonathan Heaf hears the stories of men who lost not only limbs but genitalia in service to their country

Photographs by **Giles Duley** Story by **Jonathan Heaf**

Photograph **Bridgeman Images**

‘Putting a man back together comes with immense challenges... We had never seen all these injuries on someone who was alive’

First-century Roman marble, possibly the god Mercury; (left, from left) reconstructive surgeon Demetrius Evriviades and urologist Paul Anderson

Sunday 15 November 2009

Warrant Officer Ken Bellringer of 11 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Regiment (EOD), Royal Logistics Corps, had only been back from leave for two weeks. The respite had been worthwhile physically. He'd also got to spend time with his wife and two young children; ever since serving in Northern Ireland during the Troubles he'd promised himself he would try to take more time off. Yet, if truth be told, his mind hadn't strayed far from the sandy churn of Helmand province, Afghanistan, the noise of the CH-47 Chinook blades, the waft of the canteen tent and the acrid dust that gets in between every stitch, inside every pore. War isn't something you're supposed to miss, is it? Still, as darkness fell in Balderton, Nottinghamshire, he found his mind would drift back east to where the rest of his regiment was under fire and in danger.

Once back "in theatre" it didn't take long for Bellringer's reverie to be broken. The moment his plane touched down in Camp Bastion – the British Army base northwest of the city of Lashkar Gah – his duty officer informed him a close friend had been killed that very day. It was the second colleague he had lost since having been deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Herrick XI earlier that year.

He didn't break down, not like the last time; he didn't allow grief's venom to flood into his system. Bellringer had learned to go numb in order to work. He took it in whole, like Wile E Coyote swallowing a stick of dynamite, and forced it down to the pit of his stomach where the tragedy detonated silently. War, he knew, had no patience for such sorrow.

As part of the EOD, Bellringer's role in Afghanistan was to help find and defuse the myriad improvised explosive devices (IEDs) put down by the Taliban in order to kill and maim his fellow servicemen. His ability to maintain a level head amid the chaos of war was – more than most – not only a matter of his own life and death, but also the life and death of his fellow soldiers, who would be, quite literally, following in his footsteps. "So I shrugged it off," he explains of the tragic news. "I gathered my team and went out on the ground."

It was a Sunday. Sundays had come to be known in Camp Bastion as "Holy Shit Sundays", at least by the medics. It was the darkest day of the week, when rumour had it the Taliban were most likely to strike. They would stop for Friday prayers, plan their attacks on Saturday and carry them out the following day. That was the theory anyway, although as most found out while serving in a conflict area, theory counted for very little when engaged with a guerrilla enemy whose tactics were so purposefully unpredictable.

The morning call, or "task", came in to Bellringer's team. Six devices had been discovered along a narrow track in the vicinity of Patrol Base Sandford in the Gereshk area of Helmand, about an hour and a half from Bastion. The Taliban specialised in burying bombs along such paths: slim walkways of dirt and rock, sometimes the only entry or exit to a particularly inviting strategic point. "We found the first device pretty quickly," Bellringer recalls. "From start to finish we could find, deactivate and clear a device in around 20 minutes; we were fast."

Genital reconstruction usually repurposes parts of the forearm. For Andy Searle, whose arms were too badly injured, part of his abdomen was used instead

Here's how Bellringer's team would go about clearing such a minefield. Operating in a core team of three – with the other men taking cover from potential enemy engagement behind a tree line – a lead man would go ahead sweeping with a metal detector while the other two kept around ten metres behind. If and when the lead found something of interest it would be marked and investigated thoroughly.

"We were very experienced and had been acclimatised to the heat. We'd got our eye in. We knew what bumps and irregularities to look for. After immediate deployment I spent weeks training in the test lanes at Bastion, looking for the smallest sign of a man-made disturbance, a single raised stone or unnatural discolouration, anything to indicate a bomb."

The lead man that day was Corporal Loren Marlton Thomas, 28, known to his comrades as "Loz". On that narrow footpath, however, in the middle of mud the colour of tooth decay, Corporal Marlton-Thomas found himself stuck. "He was out in front, a very experienced guy, very reliable," recalls Bellringer. "He turns to me, about three metres from where I am, and just says, 'Mate, I'm stuck. Really, I'm stuck.'"

Bellringer gave a chuckle, more out of bewilderment than anything. Yet it wasn't long before he realised how grave the situation was. "I can see he's got both feet down what looks like a rabbit hole. I come over to where he is and can see this "hole" has got straight edges. This is not a good sign. A rabbit doesn't make a hole with straight edges. That's when I realise he's stepped on a device. It's not functioned, not blown obviously, but by stepping on it and getting trapped he has now altered its state. When that happens you don't know how long you have got."

Corporal Marlton-Thomas and Warrant Officer Bellringer were now in a "category A" situation. (Civilians might call it something a lot cruder.) "A category A situation is where EOD operations commence regardless of the risk to the operator's life," says Bellringer. "We're told if there is nothing you can do, and you know categorically a device is about to go off – imagine it's a movie and you can see the timer counting down – then you're supposed to make an excuse and get out of there yourself, perhaps say you're just going to get a piece of equipment... That wasn't the case here. The device *hadn't* gone off. I tried moving my foot around the outside of the edges, looking for perhaps a wire that was running off to a battery – nothing. Still, I thought there was a good chance it had malfunctioned. So I was going to get him out. He needed help. There was no way I was just going to leave him. So I grabbed him under the arms and I pulled."

A unique constellation of injuries

Despite his extensive experience, Demetrius Evriviades – the principal plastic surgeon in the reconstruction of injured soldiers in Afghanistan – had to steel himself if he was back on the wards of the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham, the hospital where all British military personnel ended up after being shot, blown up or severely hurt in Afghanistan.

According to records, the medical staff at the Elizabeth – replacing the Selly Oak hospital down the road – treated 218 very seriously >>

In May 2011, aged 19, Rifleman Andy Searle deployed to Afghanistan with the Rifles Regiment and in June of the same year he was injured by an IED. He was treated by Demetrius Evriviades and Paul Anderson at a specialist unit in Birmingham

‘The first time I died I was in that ditch. My lung collapsed, as well as everything else’

>> injured and 222 seriously injured service personnel from Afghanistan between 2006 and October 2010. One hundred and five were given surgical amputations, while figures from the British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association (Blesma) suggest that of those, 12 were triple amputees while 48 lost both legs. More recently, medics at the Elizabeth reconstructed the damaged face of Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, after she was shot by the Taliban and left for dead in 2012.

Ken Bellringer would have arrived here some time on Monday 16 November – less than 24 hours after Corporal Marlton-Thomas stepped on the IED in Gereshk. While Corporal Marlton-Thomas tragically died – the 28-year-old Royal Engineer wasn't found until the following day, having been blown into a wadi some distance from the blast site – Bellringer survived. His injuries, however, were the worst the staff at the Queen Elizabeth, including Evriviades, had ever seen. The warrant officer and father had lost both legs above the knee, extensively damaged both his hands and arms and suffered a shattered pelvis, including the loss of both testicles

Bellringer would have been medevaced from the field by a medical emergency response team (MERT). He'd have been placed in an induced coma while surgeons at Camp Bastion battled to stem the bleeding, stabilised his vital signs and, essentially, saved his life. He would then have been flown back to the UK direct from Camp Bastion, wheeled past his family on a gurney and gone straight into the operating theatre, a smudged "M" in black marker still visible on his forehead, written by those who first attended to his injuries, administering morphine for pain relief.

"I had served for 22 years in the armed forces," says Evriviades. "I ended up going to Afghanistan twice, working out in Helmand. The rest of the time I was based in Selly Oak and then the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where facilities were much improved. Between working here in the UK and out at Bastion, I had two very different experiences of the war.

"It was very busy operating out in Helmand, but I never lost sleep worrying about whether I had treated someone correctly, about whether or not I had done the right thing. Out in Afghanistan, procedures were more or less binary: they were bleeding to death, you stopped the bleeding; there were bits of them that were dead, you chop those bits off. You fill them with blood, warm the patient up, put them on a plane, send them back to Britain..."

Evriviades is wary about how cavalier this might sound, yet all he is trying to do is underline the staggering challenges faced during this unique period of time back on the wards of the Queen Elizabeth. It was an exceptional, somewhat desperate situation and one that, despite its bloodiness, heralded some incredible, pioneering medical procedures.

"It was the constellation of injuries we were faced with," he explains. "With the advancements in modern field medicine, or forward care, we were now able to save men and women who had suffered extremely complicated and severe injuries out in Afghanistan, whereas only a few years before they would have certainly died. Putting a man back together who is in such a bad shape, however, comes with immense challenges.

"Not only are we talking about singular missing limbs, but multiple lost limbs and also proximal injuries around the perineum, the anus, rectum and the genitals. We had never seen all these different serious injuries on someone who was alive before. All of these injuries on one person makes things very complicated. Even if you survive the blood loss you can get very sick from infection and can't be operated on. Every operation is yet another insult to the body. You had patients whose lives were hanging by a thread and we had to try to fix them without tipping them over the edge."

Warrant Officer Ken Bellringer's honours include the Medal For Long Service And Good Conduct (far right), awarded after 15 years in the forces

Being one of the first surgeons to operate on such a "constellation" of injuries, Evriviades found himself a somewhat accidental pioneer: there was no literature to refer to, nowhere to look anything up. "In many ways it was going back to the birth of plastic surgery after the Great War. Harold Gillies invented what we now consider plastic surgery to be and much of his work was done in the dark, at a special ward at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot – treating men with terrible facial injuries from fragment-filled shells." Just like Gillies, Evriviades had nothing to refer to. It was innovation. "I wouldn't say I made it up as I went along," the surgeon says, smiling, "but I certainly had to think on my feet."

This intense period during the Afghanistan conflict – from around 2006 to 2009 – was a unique moment in modern warfare and thus a unique period for the medicine being applied back home. The Taliban had realised that engaging allied forces in "kinetics" – small arms fire – was getting them nowhere; they were entirely outgunned. So rather than continue to engage troop-for-troop, the Taliban started laying thousands of crudely built IEDs all over the country, basic explosives buried in the ground. With the preferred way of conducting counterinsurgency operations being on foot, the Taliban's rudimentary tactics worked. The devastating effects of IEDs ripped through the allied forces, the resulting injuries savaging morale both for the men serving and those back in Britain waiting to be deployed.

"It was the extent and location of the injuries that caught our attention," continues Evriviades, who graduated from Liverpool Medical School in 1994 and trained as a plastic surgeon in Oxford and Trent. "With the advances in frontline medicine, we were seeing men return with injuries never seen before on those still alive, specifically injuries to the lower abdomen."

Despite the upsurge in IEDs, the body armour issued to the British forces at the time, although effective against small arms fire, didn't especially protect the lower body, the legs or the genitals against a blast from below. Although the Ministry Of Defence worked hard, and quickly, to issue "ballistic boxers" – heavy-duty silk cycling shorts that helped prevent secondary infections from fine sand particles thrown up by explosives – these weren't field-tested until the summer of 2011. (Later on, several tiers of protection were added to the "boxers", making them more effective.)

It was groin injuries that caused Evriviades the most concern and gave him the greatest challenges as a plastic surgeon. Before pelvic protection was widely deployed, the signature injury, certainly in regard to the first half of the conflict in Afghanistan, was "bilateral high-leg amputation with severe injury to the anorectum, necessitating a colostomy, and severe genitourethral injury". In short, genital trauma, for some of the most severely injured servicemen, started becoming a real concern. Almost ten years on, however, it >>

Bomb disposal officer Ken Bellringer (below, at far left, in Ireland in 1997) was injured in Helmand province in November 2009. He had been helping a soldier who had stepped on an IED when the device detonated. The other soldier, Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas, was killed

‘That’s when I realised he’d stepped on a device... When that happens you don’t know how long you’ve got’

Andy Searle lost his penis and both testicles as a result of the IED blast in 2011 and required a complex, multistage reconstruction at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, using tissue from his abdomen and scalp

>> is still a topic, an issue and an injury that is hardly ever talked about. It is the injured serviceman's last taboo.

There is a poignant contradiction in regards to the fact that one's genitals aren't necessary for maintaining life, yet for so many, they are entirely vital for living a certain quality of life. "These weren't considered life-saving operations, medically speaking," Evriviades says. "When it comes to patient care, genital injuries aren't even considered until some time after being admitted into care. Most have this work done as outpatients once off the main wards. This is at odds, of course, with the priority given to this by the actual patients: what, in all likelihood, is the very first question a soldier asks after being hit by an IED? 'Doc, have I still got my balls?'

"We found the psychological impact of losing their genitals was far greater then the impact of losing, say, a limb even. Imagine lying in a hospital bed having survived a blast and reaching under the covers between your legs but feeling nothing. Now imagine being 19 years old. And being in an organisation such as the army."

New 'signature trauma'

Radial forearm phalloplasty is the procedure many trans men go through when they want a sex change. Essentially, it is a transfer of tissue – the radial artery, cephalic vein and numerous nerves – from the forearm of the patient to reconstruct the penis and urethra. The problem Evriviades and his colleagues faced with badly injured servicemen, such as Ken Bellringer, is that they were arriving as single, double or even triple amputees to the ward. Either their forearms weren't there or, as in many cases, the blast damage to their arms was far too severe to be used for the phalloplasty.

Another challenge was "the plumbing". This is where Evriviades called on the help of Paul Anderson, who, naturally, grew up watching *M*A*S*H*, yet eventually specialised in urology. "I ended up working in a department specialising in urology and plastic surgery, doing mainly genitourethral reconstructive surgery," Anderson explains.

"When all the victims from Afghanistan began coming back to the Queen Elizabeth, especially with this signature groin injury to the perineum, I was asked to come and consult, first on an ad hoc basis and then more regularly. This was when Demetrius and I would work together. As the number of men with severe genitourinary trauma increased, it became very apparent that they needed a multidisciplinary approach.

"I had been dealing with a lot of civilian injuries up to this point," Anderson continues. "Things like crush injuries to the pelvis or genital injuries due to road traffic accidents. This is where, much like a blast victim, the various pipes – the urethra, the tube that conducts urine and semen from the bladder and ejaculatory ducts, and so on – can be ripped out or severed. I worked in tandem with Demetrius to provide better care for these servicemen, who were, understandably, more concerned about what could be done about their genital injuries than anything else. It was the sheer number of these injuries we were seeing that was unprecedented. Although the Americans were getting far more of the severely injured, their patients were being looked after by almost 20 hospitals across the States. In Britain it was just us at the Queen Elizabeth. It meant we learned a lot very quickly."

The joint clinic, starting around February 2009, was there to assess and offer surgical help to those servicemen whose genitals had been severely damaged or destroyed during the war. Men such as Rifleman Andy Searle, who, like Bellringer, was injured by an IED in Afghanistan. Searle, from Torquay, signed up to the army when he was only 16. "I always wanted to do it as a kid, then just before I left school I signed up. I forged my mum's signature at the careers office." By the age of 19 (in May 2011) he was on a flight out of RAF Brize Norton being taken to Camp Bastion. The tour was due to last six months; he only completed one before he was injured.

'Every operation is another insult to the body. Patients' lives hung by a thread'

"I remember being stunned initially," he explains of his bomb blast. Only ten days prior to this Searle had been on his hands and knees, covered in blood, trying to save the life of his commander, who also had stepped on an IED, severing both legs above the knee. His commander never made it.

"I just took two steps and 'boom'," he recalls about being hit. "I remember flying through the air, a lot of heat and then landing in an irrigation ditch." Records have since informed Searle that he died a total of four times that day. "I think the first time I died I was in that ditch. My lung collapsed, as well as everything else. Luckily we had a good navy medic who knew what to do and got tubes down my throat. I just wished I could have had some morphine; they can't administer it if your blood pressure is too low. It'll kill you."

Back in Birmingham, he spent four to five weeks drifting in and out of consciousness. "I guess my injuries didn't really hit home until I asked my mum to take my socks off because my feet felt really hot. She was like, 'What are you on about? You have no legs, son.' I had a five per cent chance of living, mainly because of the infection from the ditch and the blast. My surgeons, Demetrius and Paul, were learning so much from all the men coming back injured from the front line that I was told had I been injured just six months before I would have died, as they wouldn't have known the things they did."

Although he'd survived the initial blast, Searle's battle had only just begun. "Once in Birmingham, they kept cutting my legs higher and higher to stop the infections I was getting, the last point taking it all the way up to my hip. That's how I lost my genitals. I lost one testicle in the initial blast, but because of the infection and poor blood supply my penis and other testicle just died. They just cut it off."

Today, Searle is in the final stages of having a new penis made for him by Evriviades. "My new penis is made up from lots of different parts of me, essentially," he explains candidly. "As my forearms were too badly damaged, they had to make the main bulk of it from part of my abdomen."

A coiled piece of skin, called a pedicle, was cut and attached to where Searle's new penis would be, essentially attaching part of his back to his groin. By not severing the donor tissue completely and moving it wholesale, it meant the blood flow was kept continuous, allowing for a higher chance of a successful skin graft and acceptance by the body. "The tip of my penis is made from the skin underneath my scalp, for it's colour and potential sensitivity. The urethra, Paul's work, was made from the skin lining the inside of my mouth, as it needs to be able to stay continuously wet."

Length, it turns out, was up to him – although there were limits. "Well, it's pretty long at the moment, as why not?" he says, chuckling. "Although this might change, as I keep damaging it." Damaging it? "Yes. I sometimes get it out in town. Last time I started doing the helicopter with it in club. Think I may have whacked it on a table edge. Also, I'm a keen scuba diver and when I went diving in Egypt I wasn't changing the dressing as much as I should have been." Army, it turns out, will always be army. Searle's stoicism, bravery and robustness is, frankly, staggering.

Does Searle ever think about whether or not he will have sex again? Is having children possible? Or is just the fact that he's alive enough? "After my testicles were gone, they give you testosterone replacement injections and that >>

>> was very frustrating. It's not that I want a girlfriend, that has passed, really, but if the option is there to have a penis back I'll take it. It would make me feel that much closer to being whole again. It's your manhood, isn't it?"

And having sex, how would this work? "Implants and injections. The trouble is, I lost so much of my pelvic bone they are finding it hard to anchor the implant anywhere. At the moment, I can pee out of a hole underneath my penis. Still, it's far better than it was. It's good looking down there and seeing something. I have actually chosen to stop with my prosthetics, my limbs, and focus on my genital injuries. To be honest, I am never going to walk properly again. I would rather have my penis back than walk on my stumps."

"Remember, the penis isn't just the penis," says Anderson. "It is much more than just something to pee out of. The injured servicemen who had the catheters put in despise them and would love their penis to work again so they could pee normally. For someone who is sedentary, not moving, the catheters are especially painful because the patients produce more salt in their urine, giving rise to bladder stones, pain and infection. If it's a question of reconnecting the existing pipes, it's a challenging operation but it's not as hard as creating an entire new penis from scratch – and that is where I would let Demetrius take the lead."

"There were essentially two different types of genital injury coming back from Afghanistan," explains Evriviades. "There's rebuilding a damaged penis and there's a complete reconstruction. From here, there are three different options, three levels of surgery. You can create something that looks like a penis, a pant-filler, so to speak, which psychologically is very important. Secondly, you can create something that the men can take out at a urinal and pee from – again this is really important psychologically.

"Lastly, you can create something the men can have sex with, which involves placing an implant in, one where they actually get an erection and have satisfying sexual intercourse. If the nerves are joined up and the operation is a success, there are some men who will have real sensitivity down there; you touch their penis and they will tell you you are touching their penis – much like a successful hand transplant. For some men, harvesting sperm is entirely possible. Some men can still reach orgasm. And some of my patients have gone on to have children."

The emotional toll

Through charities, such as Help For Heroes or HRH Prince Harry's Invictus Games sporting programme, as well as the success of the 2012 Paralympics in London, British servicemen with missing limbs have become a well-known symbol of the war in Afghanistan. What is rarely spoken about is genital damage. For many of those injured it is cloaked in shame, stigma and embarrassment. This is the first time victims such as Ken Bellringer and Andy Searle have gone on record about these specific injuries and their lasting effects. Both, they tell me, wish more men would speak out about it.

Bellringer, who has since left the forces, has spent a great deal of time thinking about how to move forward positively with such injuries, although he's the first to admit that because of his age and his marital status, his lot is somewhat easier than the psychological challenges a much younger man would face. "I'd lost my legs. I'd lost my testicles," he explains, "but I had my penis, or part of it anyway. It had been pulled inside my abdomen [by the blast] and that was hard to understand and deal with, but I was married, I'd already had my kids – so that side of my life was done."

I ask Bellringer if he talked about his genital injuries to any of his fellow servicemen on the wards in Birmingham. "To be honest, we brushed over it," he says thoughtfully. "I think we all knew to a certain extent, but even with the good humour – you know, army lads – it wasn't something we talked about. There was a line we wouldn't cross. The emotional side of our injuries was quite a hard thing to discuss openly. We had Paul and Demetrius dealing with our physical injuries so brilliantly, but I never felt that way with my mental injuries. There was no focus on it.

"I would have liked to have known more about my options or making the most of what I have. Sex toys, how to use Viagra properly and so on, also things like Caverject injections, which are used to treat erectile problems. We were offered these things, but nothing was really talked through. You know, there's more to sex than just penetration – men, even men with injuries such as mine, need to know that. It's not just about the medicine and the treatment. It's about education. We talk about leg injuries. We talk about prosthetics. We talk about our hands and the progress with transplants. Why not talk about our genital injuries, our sexuality and how this will be affected? It should be made more matter-of-fact."

Bellringer knows that it's one thing to come home to a wife and two children – whatever the injuries – and quite another thing to come home from war as a 19 year-old man like Andy Searle, with such genitourinary injuries and the pelvic area completely destroyed. "It's part of their identity as a man," agrees Evriviades. "It's not just a physical injury, far from it. And in many ways, it makes no sense that a genital injury, such an important psychological one, is among the very last to be dealt with. It can erode a patient's feeling of self-worth and many feel they are unable to talk about such wounds, to their friends or even their loved ones. This makes them even higher risk for suicide."

New hope for some of these men comes in the form of a complete penile transplant. Research in the United States, led by surgeons from the Johns Hopkins University School Of Medicine in Baltimore, has seen some success with this, although the risk of infection is very high and the treatment could cost between £150,000 and £300,000, mainly due to the expensive anti-rejection drug programme the patient would have to go on, probably for the rest of their lives.

The project has been years in the making, with extensive research on cadavers. This work includes injecting brightly coloured food dyes into the bodies to map out the circularity system in the penis. Whether or not servicemen – and their partners – can get used to the idea that their most intimate body part came from another man is yet to be seen.

The Afghan conflict, for British troops at least, is mostly over. But there will be other conflicts, inevitably. We must make certain the knowledge garnered by Paul Anderson and Demetrius Evriviades, their work with Ken Bellringer and Andy Searle, as well as all the other patients and medical experts, is documented, passed on and built upon. In honour of those soldiers who didn't make it home, men such as Corporal Loren Marlton-Thomas, we must make sure this pioneering work, which has only just begun, continues.

At the end of the day, all these men want the same thing. "They all want their old penises back," Evriviades confesses. "That much is distinctly clear. Some things, no matter how much we learn or push the science, are beyond even our reach." **GQ**

'The psychological impact of losing their genitals is greater than losing a limb'

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Photograph **Pixeleyes**

A T-shirt signed by soldiers from Rifleman Andy Searle's company while he was in hospital. 'Swift And Bold' is the regiment's motto; (below, back centre) Searle aged 16 at the Army Training Regiment in Winchester in September 2008

'The emotional side of our injuries was a hard thing to discuss. There was a line we wouldn't cross'

My bewildered troubled chaotic intrepid wet hot wild fruitless breathless breathless triumphant year in Los Angeles

Illustrations by **The Red Dress**

What does it take to conquer Hollywood? For writer/producer DANNY WALLACE, it took him, his family and more ideas than you can shake a script at halfway round the world for a year at the cultural coalface. From making frenemies with Pharrell's children to remaking Duel with a hotdog on wheels, here's how it all played out...

DANNY WALLACE

Hollywood
is 20,000
people rushing
desperately
to the place
where lightning
just struck

Image AMPAS

So, picture this: a shot of tequila waits by a rippling blue pool under a canopy of palms

I am resting my eyes on an inflatable pineapple by the midcentury Airbnb bungalow we've rented for a few days and I look up and I see my son splashing in the water. He is five at the time. He looks so healthy, so happy and so sun-kissed and lean – so Californian – that I have the thought I've had for a while: "We could move here. For a year. It's something people do."

I'm a writer. I've got a little form in Hollywood. I could sell a couple of scripts. So why don't we? I mean, if we can?

Home, London

In the office, lit by corner light. The staccato of rapid, purposeful typing is the only sound

I set about seeing if I can land some work. And it happens. I land something big. I'm asked if I'd be interested in creating a TV show based around an enormous and exciting movie franchise. I say yes. It would mean working closely with my favourite director. I say yes, please. So I work hard. I write, I pontificate, I pitch, and on a rainy London-night Skype call in front of producers and directors and executives sitting in a sparse American boardroom thousands of miles away, I get the gig. This means someone will send me a fruit basket out of respect.

I'm instructed to pack my bags and fly my family out forthwith – for I will now be working 18-hour days for a year, executive producing and showrunning a complex production across Los Angeles and Vancouver, with hundreds of people under me. I will have to find the nuanced balance between getting the show right, honouring the history of my favourite franchise, pleasing an audience and generating millions of dollars in revenue for a major Hollywood studio. I will be stressed. There will be many demands on my time. But what a way to spend that year. I will have to hire writing staff soon, and a second-in-command now, and start work on scripts myself immediately, while simultaneously skipping through my own power-pop montage of every legal and logistical hoop imaginable in order to make the move to Los Angeles and "The Project" work...

Getting two children up early to spend hours in the US Embassy when I've just discovered I've lost my iPad? Check. Researching health insurance for my heavily pregnant wife, who will soon be giving birth to child number three: an American? Check. Paying a solicitor to ensure I get my visa, renting a home, setting up bank accounts, finding a school and a car and working out how Americans prefer to be paid because not everyone does online banking yet? Check, check, check, check and – largely – cheque.

We book flights and move swiftly. Yank our eldest from school. Production is imminent. Deals are done. Work needs to be started.

We arrive in Los Angeles. There is no fruit basket to welcome me. I look everywhere. Not one. I realise that The Project has immediately started to disintegrate.

The bar, West Hollywood

Top floor of an off-Sunset skyscraper, all herringbone floors and muted teal walls, fake laughs and business chatter. On a cracked leather sofa, a YouTuber in ripped jeans sits unrecognised and furious

I'm not saying I suddenly had time on my hands. But I suddenly had time on my hands.

Someone once described Hollywood to me as 20,000 people all rushing desperately to the place where lightning just struck. The trends are always changing. All you have to do is sit in a bar and listen.

"CBS wants reboots. NBC wants big swings..."

It's a mining town. An exciting, glamorous, glorious town, but a mining town, and everything revolves around that one $632 billion-last-year mine. If you're not in that mine, you're outside, trying to get in, holding a pickaxe you have to make yourself.

I'm at this bar ready to discuss a "Next Project" and to my right is Rachel McAdams. Behind me sits Haley Joel Osment. I'm sitting on the seat that is still warm from Orlando Bloom's bottom. I'm lazily lunching with a well-known talent manager who is about to tell a secret he's been building up to.

"What you gotta do," he says, leaning forward, before unveiling it, "is something no one else has ever done... in a way no one else has ever done it."

He nods sagely and sits back. I let his advice sink in. It sounds pretty easy, coming up with something no one else has ever done and in an entirely new way. I mean, I don't want to say anything bad, but in terms of advice, this is about as useful as "What you gotta do is write a movie that wins all the Oscars." Once, when I was appearing on *Celebrity Mastermind* (which strangely holds no real cachet in Hollywood), Nicholas Parsons took me to one side and, in hushed and conspiratorial tones, shared the following secret: "If you're ever about to do something where you have to talk a lot and you're worried your throat might get dry... just have a little drink of water."

I feel this manager has given me the Hollywood version of Parsons' advice.

But in the United States, positivity is key. They are a can-do people. They don't want to hear your self-deprecation or your false modesty or your negative take. They want to crack on and get going and anything else is wasting time.

So, "That's great advice!" I say, and I am professional enough to remember that it is also vital to always be excited, so I add, "I'm excited!"

An office, Beverly Hills

We follow from an impressive reception dotted with historic awards to a bare, beige side-room, where our producer (thirties, suit he bought in his twenties) flicks a tiny room-temperature bottle of water across a cheap teak table and springs back in his chair – hands behind head – moments from switching off

"So, I'm excited. What you got for me?" says the exec as I sit down. I'm in a run of meetings with studios and networks. It is the day after Labor Day. I don't know what that means either. There are so many holidays in the US. Eleven federal holidays: ten annual holidays, one quadrennial holiday. Everyone is constantly either winding down for the holiday or warming up for it. The holiday is what you talk about when a conversation is over.

Anyway, since The Project evaporated and the lightning struck elsewhere, I've been working up a few ideas. This one is a comedy, told comedically through comedy, based on the incredible comic life of a comedian I know out here who does comedy

The exec – who requested this comedy meeting about this comedy project – listens, >>

For a week or so, wherever I go, I seem to see something called the Wienermobile

>> he laughs, he asks questions. And then, when our hour is up, he says, "I love it. But I'll be honest: we're not gonna make any more comedies. We don't do comedy now. Comedy is not where we're at. At all."

I blink. He'd asked for this meeting about a comedy. He knew it was a comedy. Told comedically through comedy. With a comedian in it.

"I just wanted to hear it," he explains, shrugging, before adding, "So, did you do anything exciting for the holiday?"

Los Angeles is a paranoid town, scared of missing out, of not knowing what other people know, of needing to know whether it's useful or not. And the strange thing is, I sort of find that admirable. People make extra work for themselves so that they might make extra work for themselves.

The house, Laurel Canyon

Lizards dart from trashcans as a neighbour gets into his Tesla. He fires up the radio: 'Despacito'. It will remain in that man's head all day and slowly drive him mad

We have rented a house up in the hills, which is safe because "crime don't climb". However, spiders do and there are bloody millions of them. We've also just been told to watch out for raccoons, skunks, black widows, snakes and, oh yeah, mountain lions. At no point when we were discussing this house from London had anyone mentioned mountain lions.

Everyone who passes our house each day – which I protect from mountain lions with a small blue baseball bat – is dressed in activewear. Particularly the women. This does not mean they have recently been active. It simply means they want you to think they've been active. Seeming active, fit and sweaty is social currency. It speaks of a healthy mind and a bright attitude, just as being excited any time anyone suggests anything at all does. I am a man yet to be fitted for yoga pants or hiking hats. But I've got my little blue bat.

LA offers the modern, right-thinking family a lot of fun – relentless sunshine, museums dedicated to such vital things as ice cream, swimming pools aplenty and beaches on which it's still possible to find yourself alone. All of it involves driving. Even the children do it.

One morning, a small blonde girl and her small blonde friend drive up to our house in a yellow battery-powered toy Camaro. My son sits between them for a photograph. In that moment, I feel happy for him – he's made two friends. But also very sad for him – because when he is 16 he will look back at this photograph and see himself in a sports car with two blonde Californian girls and realise his life peaked aged six.

At school, he makes a frenemy after a shoving match with another small boy called Rocket.

"I'm going to have to talk to this kid's dad," I think, pumping myself up, "sort these clowns out. Also, who calls his kid Rocket?"

I then find out who called his kid Rocket: Pharrell called his kid Rocket.

"Yeah," I think, weighing things up. "I'll probably leave it."

Pharrell on the school run is one thing, but as the year progresses I realise that LA is unusual precisely because all this fame is here not just for one night only, like a premiere, but to live.

On a daily basis, you start to see world-famous celebrities performing incredibly mundane tasks, like some kind of high-budget *Celebrity Big Brother*. But instead of the possibility of seeing Paul Danan chugging a prosecco and lamping a Chuckle Brother, you see Jeremy Renner in a pharmacy glancing at hairbrushes or Charlize Theron standing in the park by a seesaw, staring.

I once saw Ron Jeremy in a hotel lobby

Appearing on Celebrity Mastermind holds no real cachet in Hollywood...

complaining about the state of the linen, which I thought was ironic. And look: there's Dominic West walking up a hill; Matthew Perry rejecting an avocado. There's Pee-wee Herman in little shorts.

That fame is money in Los Angeles, desirable, useful – yes – but also common and everywhere. Every taco is world-famous, every burger the best in the city. Every comic is introduced on stage not with a joke, but with a lengthy list of their showbusiness accomplishments and places you might have seen them (but didn't). And all of these stars (and Pee-wee Herman) glide through their days shoulder-to-shoulder with the waifs and strays and civilians and oddballs of a scorching hot city.

Los Angeles, like all great cities, is packed with oddballs. But these oddballs, I begin to realise as the evidence stacks up, are proper oddballs.

Sure, you get your people who suddenly start screaming at the sky as you walk past. But you also get your oddballs who have made their oddballery work for them, who understand that almost anything can become a "thing" in LA. People who thought, you know what this city needs? A mobile disco for dogs; a sushi cronut, which combines a doughnut, a croissant and, of course, sushi; a pop up shop that sells nothing but VHS tapes of *Jerry Maguire* (they had 12,500 of them in one store); a coffee place established by and named after the star of *Machete Kills*, *Spy Kids* and *Delta Farce*, Danny Trejo, which literally had people queueing round the block, all of them desperate to know what a Danny Trejo-approved latte tastes like (answer: the same as one not approved by Danny Trejo).

Oddball ideas and oddballs in general walk among you, whether wafting out of the weed shops or dressed entirely in leather in 40C heat at the beach. It's a melting-pot meeting point.

I begin to become reasonably familiar with a bald man in glasses who wears a sweater that says "I am not Bernie Sanders" on the front, and, as you turn to watch him go, "I am not Larry David either" on the back.

This is a city that welcomes you but still demands to know who you think you are. Even if, like that guy, all you really know is who you aren't.

Talking of fame and oddballs, I was once in a traffic jam and saw an elderly black man wandering down the street. He was smartly dressed and waving at every single car he passed.

"Who's this weirdo waving at everyone?" I said.

"He's waving at them because they're waving at him," said my companion, as the crazy old man kept madly waving and beaming.

"But why are they waving at him?" I asked, confused.

"Because he's Sidney Poitier."

LA from above

A single pristine contrail scars a blue sky and we whip down. Here's LA, this sprawling mass of sun glints in windows and stopped-still traffic. Car horns. Radio noise. It's Christmas

LA looks no different at Christmas than it does in June, except the second-hand car place on Ventura puts out an inflatable Santa. I suddenly have three children, not two, and one of them is American.

A different baby is also sworn in as president and the city's atmosphere has been slowly changing.

DANNY WALLACE

People have stopped watching box sets in the evenings. We watch CNN at seven, MSNBC from eight, then CNN again at ten as politics takes over in a town that just a month ago knew it was showbiz *über alles*. I spend a long lunch in a local deli with a gun-owning Republican advisor who was horrified at what his party had become.

There is an unspoken tension between strangers now – the Uber driver, the hairdresser, the stranger with the dog – because everyone has an opinion to share and now more than ever those opinions divide.

A TV showrunner I meet in a Studio City bar called Rocco's Tavern tells me he won't go to parties any more in case he meets new people. "What do you mean?" I say, and he tells me, dead serious, he's now scared of meeting anyone whose opinion he doesn't already know. Because if he finds out they have a different take on Trump and the far right, a take that appears to be rising from nowhere and turning the blue state of California just a little more purple as a reddish tinge bubbles underneath? Well, he'll have to get in his car and go home again.

And as California came to grips with that reddish tinge, the rains started.

No one tells you it rains in LA. The first time it happened, I saw a woman in a slinky dress leave her house and start to dance in the rain, like something out of a bad Guns N' Roses video. But the rain didn't stop with the girl in the slinky dress. It waited her out, lashing LA for a month.

In a nearby street, sudden sinkholes sucked cars and their drivers into raging waters below. Fire engines toppled from bridges, trees fell, whole sections of houses slid down steep canyons and slammed onto roads below.

A week later, it's so dry there are wildfire warnings. Signs at the beach point out tsunami escape routes. People say the "Big One" is coming.

At this point, I'm not sure if they're talking about an earthquake or Godzilla, because it's like that in LA, disaster is a constant threat, always and literally just beneath the surface.

And then something sinister begins to happen to me personally.

For a week or so, wherever I go, I seem to see something called the Wienermobile. It's a large vehicle shaped like a sausage. It promotes Oscar Mayer wieners. Seeing it once is a novelty, twice is fun, but when you start to see it more than that it is deeply unsettling, like being followed around by a clown. Sometimes, I find myself stuck behind it for mile upon mile along Mulholland Drive. Other times, I glance in my rear-view mirror and with a jolt realise I am being followed by a sausage. I am not saying I am being targeted by the Wienermobile. I am just saying it seems I am being targeted by the Wienermobile.

Around this time, I buy a family-sized earthquake survival kit from Amazon. (There is as yet no Godzilla survival kit.) But maybe a weird disaster-paranoia is setting in. North Korea starts to talk about nuclear weapons. LA is on the coast and feels on the edge.

But the show goes on. I go to pitch an idea.

Suddenly, there is A Project.

The mine is open. Come on in.

It reminds me of an agent who once said to me, "Congrats on the sale. I'll get right on it. Although, to be honest, I have to warn you: I have been known to fuck these things up."

The car, Mulholland Drive

From the POV of a writer in a 2007 Volvo XC90 bought from a nutter on Ventura. The snaking trail of Mulholland – all sharp curves and dry scrub and no safety barriers whatsoever. NPR on the radio. One wrong move and a 500-foot drop

When a deal is done, it's not done. You have to wait for them to do the deal, which is never a done deal. So I drive around a lot and think.

You get so used to driving in a place this large and underserved by public transport that vast distances mean nothing any more. One night, a shop tells me they don't have the thing I turned up to buy, but that their other branch does. It is 15 miles away. I just get in the car and start driving. This would not happen in Britain. At no point would I go to the corner shop, see they're out of milk and think, "That's OK. I'll just pop out to Heathrow!"

Talking of which, I inevitably fall in with a crowd of Brits

Ex-pats adore Los Angeles. It's a city kind to the British. Our accents mark us out as highly debonair and incredibly intellectual, even if those accents are from Swindon or Shepshed.

But while the sunshine and swimming and optimism and health of LA is undeniable, you do miss the strangest things about home. You miss the way people say thank you when you do them a favour in traffic. You miss chicken that doesn't have "No Antibiotics Administered" on the front, like that somehow makes it tastier. You miss ready meals. And, my God, you miss the bread.

It's the first thing a Brit in LA will tell you. "The bread! What's up with *the bread*?"

Not the restaurant bread you get in a Cecconi's or a Dan Tana's, nor the bread hawked by hipsters in camper vans at farmers' markets and baked solely for Instagram. Not the buns from Koreatown, nor the sandwiches from Art's Deli. But the normal bread. The chewy, sugary, "normal" bread. The bread that never seems to go off. Give us each day our daily bread – unless you're in the US, in which case keep it.

But one day I saw a sign. "LA Bread Festival". Here I would find my people! It was downtown. It took an hour to get to. And when we turned up, the LA Bread Festival turned out to be three small trestle tables, all selling exactly the same breads.

"Why does no one care about bread?" I wailed, though, of course, I think the answer is simple: bread bloats.

I mean, there was jam. Loads of it. And when I turned around, a middle-aged woman was announcing the beginning of a "butter aerobics" class, in which people had to dance to music while shaking a jar of milk until it slowly turned into butter. A strange performance: part fitness, part showbiz. But this woman had found her thing – another Angeleno making her own work in the city, wielding her pickaxe close to the mine.

But I wasn't in LA for butter or jam. I didn't want the toppings. I wanted the substance. And I think I found it. Because LA is a city that balances on an incredible work ethic, a tremendous focus. All that mining.

Somehow, a city that sits on a faultline and which is always on the edge of disaster and is a sprawling, badly designed mess with too much traffic and too much heat and such bad bread still manages to draw in people from every corner of the globe and keep them there, pickaxes in hand.

My year is up. I'm heading back with two or three projects. I'm excited. And I ask myself one thing. Do I love LA? I sort of do. I respect it enormously. I'd give it a fruit basket if I could.

But, like Sidney Poitier wandering down a road, I wave it goodbye. Though not before one more afternoon and one more shot of tequila waiting by a rippling blue pool under a canopy of palms. **GQ**

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Mick Jagger could be spotted snaking his hips in a white suit at Studio 54

Seen here in 1976, Mick Jagger led the way in all-white suits – a spotless trend that returns this season

Suit by **Boss**, £595. hugoboss.com

BACK IN WHITE

Michael Jackson returns to the ivories, as his Thriller two-piece fronts the season's new none-more-blanc suiting

Photograph **Peter C Borsari Photography**

Text **Teo van den Broeke** Photographs by **James Anastasi** Styling by **Luke Day**

Back in the day, wearing white in the heat denoted both wealth and standing

Below: Bianca Jagger with daughter Jade in London, 1979; Eddie Redmayne in Rio De Janeiro, 2016

Jacket (part of a suit) by **Boss**, £625. hugoboss.com

Model and activist Adwoa Aboah photographed for British GQ wearing a white Boss suit, 2017

In the US, the old adage goes that white must never be worn between Labor Day (usually sometime in early September) and Memorial Day (the end of May). The reason for this slightly archaic rule, apparently, is that back in the day, if you wore white during the summer it demonstrated that you could afford to ruin your clothes by sweating in them and therefore wearing white in the heat denoted both wealth and standing.

Bonkers rationales aside, there is certainly a plausible argument for wearing white exclusively in the summer. The colour reflects light rather than absorbs it, which means that something pale – a white suit, for instance – will keep you far cooler than something in a darker shade. Another good reason for not wearing white in the wetter months is that you avoid having muddy winter puddles splashed up your legs by speeding buses (never a bad thing).

As it happens, white tailoring is big news for Spring/Summer. Brands across the board have begun placing pristine suits at the core of their warm-weather collections. Boss, the German tailoring brand with an elegant, low-key appeal, is a case in point. Boss and white tailoring, after all, have history.

The brand famously dressed Michael Jackson in a white linen-cotton-mix suit for the cover of his 1982 Grammy Award-winning album, *Thriller*. The story goes that Jackson could not find anything he liked on the stylist's rail during the shoot. The photographer, Dick Zimmerman, was wearing a white suit from Boss, a look which Jackson admired and so he asked the stylist if he had anything similar that he could wear. It was at this point that Zimmerman offered up his own suit. Jackson accepted and the rest, as they say, is history.

"I was in LA two weeks ago and we actually went to the Grammy Museum to look at the original suit," says Ingo Wilts, chief brand officer of Hugo Boss. "We asked them if we could see [Jackson's] suit. We don't have the pattern for it any more, as it's so old, but we want to remake it, redesign it." He continues, "The suit came out in a protective garment bag. The lady put her blue rubber gloves on and said, 'You don't touch it.'

"On close inspection, the suit looked like it was made in Germany," says Wilts. "It's buttoned with mother-of-pearl, which we don't use any more on suits, because they break too easily. The design of the suit is also very fancy," he says. "We're actually remaking the suit. >>

Jackson admired the photographer's white suit and asked the stylist if he had anything similar

Boss is remaking its white two-piece suit, as worn by the King Of Pop on the cover of 1982's Thriller

Photographs Getty Images; Pixeleyes; Mariano Vivanco

Elton John at his Surrey home for his Greatest Hits album cover shoot, 1974; (below) John Travolta as Tony Manero in Saturday Night Fever, 1977

into the winter as he was too poor to buy another suit).

Boss, for Spring/Summer 2018, has put white tailoring front and centre of the collection. There are smartly cut double-breasted suits made from crisply structured linen. There are short suits in white and single-breasted suits in ivory. There are milky suits with peak lapels and alabaster two-pieces with notch lapels. The whole look is bright, optimistic and totally summer-ready.

"With this collection, we wanted everything easy," says Wilts. "We called [it] the 'Summer Of Ease'. I mean, white is such a summer colour and we have a whole story about white suits: double-breasted, single-breasted. So the easiness, the construction, it all makes it very summery, fresh and crisp."

When it comes to wearing your own white suit this summer, we'd recommend either sporting it *Miami Vice* style, with nothing more than a T-shirt or – gasp – nothing underneath at all. Short of that, make like Wolfe and team your suit with a shirt in dark indigo and a necktie finished with a soft, preppy pattern. If you really want to get the look spot-on, however, team your suit with an open-neck black shirt and a smart black leather belt à la Jacko. Tiger cub optional. **GQ**

From left: **Zayn Malik photographed for British GQ wearing Boss, 2017; Tom Wolfe poses for the Chicago Tribune, 2008; Cillian Murphy photographed in Boss for British GQ, 2017; Mark Ronson attends the Gucci Icon-Temporary store opening in London, 2010**

>> The fit is a little bit different from the suits we make today, but it will be perfectly integrated into our collection because we obviously do a lot of white suits. The fabric it's made from is a kind of linen. It's a kind of 50/50 linen-mix maybe."

Boss is the official fashion sponsor of the *Michael Jackson: On The Wall* exhibition, which starts in June at the National Portrait Gallery. The show is being mounted to coincide with what would have been Jackson's 60th birthday and the image of the singer in his white Boss suit will feature in newly commissioned works by artist Graham Dolphin that will take centre stage in the exhibition space.

It wasn't just Jacko who knew how to rock a white suit. John Travolta looked mega wearing a three-piece in 1977's *Saturday Night Fever*; Mick Jagger could regularly be spotted snaking his hips in a one at Studio 54; and 87-year-old American author Tom Wolfe wears a white suit day in, day out – flouting the Labor Day rule with vigour (incidentally, Wolfe wears a white suit so often because in his early years the writer bought one that was too heavy for summer, so he just carried on wearing it

More from GQ For these related stories visit GQ.co.uk/magazine

- **Inside The Jackson Machine** (Charlie Burton, February 2018)
- **How To Wear A White Tuxedo Jacket Right** (Nick Carvell, January 2017)
- **How To Get GQ Men Of The Year-Worthy Black Tie-Style With Hugo Boss** (Nick Carvell, September 2013)

MICHAEL JACKSON: ON THE WALL IS AT THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON FROM 28 JUNE – 21 OCTOBER *NPG.ORG.UK*

Photographs **John Balsom; Getty Images; Doug Inglish**

Suit by **Boss**, £645. hugoboss.com

Production **Stephanie Lawley at KO Productions**
Models **Augusta Alexander at Select Model Management; Daan van der Deen at Elite London; Eric Underwood at Premier Model Management**
Casting **Paul Isaac**
Grooming **Ben Jones using Sisley Paris**
Fashion assistants **Harry Clements; Emily Tighe**

Boss put white tailoring front and centre in its SS18 collection

Jacket, £140. Jeans, £115. Both by **Calvin Klein Jeans** calvinklein.co.uk
Zip-up jacket by **Scotch & Soda**, £229. scotch-soda.com.
Cross necklace by **Unique & Co** £65. uniqueandco.com.
Ring necklace by **Dolce & Gabbana**, £2,950. dolcegabbana.com.
On hand, from left: Ring, £179. Ring, £198. Both by **Thomas Sabo** thomassabo.com.
Ring by **Gucci**, £310. gucci.com

DENIM'S

Get ready to rock the blues in fashion's hardest-working material. From bleached whites to deep, dark indigo, this season's washes double down on rough cuts and tapered tailoring

Photographs by **Buzz White** Styling by **Luke Day**

Shirt by **G-Star Raw**, £85, g-star.com. Jeans by **AG Jeans**, £270, agjeans.com. Boots by **Jessie Western**, £299 ,essiewestern.com. Chain by **Rokit**, £18, rokit.co.uk Cross necklace by **Unique & Co**, £65 uniqueandco.com. Ring necklace by **Dolce & Gabbana**, £2,950 dolcegabbana com Be t by **Bottega Veneta**, £625. bottegaveneta.com. Snake bracelet, £875. Feline bracelet, £325 Both by **Gucci**, gucci com. On right hand, from top R ng by **Gucci**, £310 Ring, £198. Ring, £179 Both by **Thomas Sabo** thomassabo com On left hand, from left: Ring by **Gucci**, £310 Ring, £119. Ring, £350. Both by **Thomas Sabo** Boot buckles by **Gucci**, £535

2018

Jacket by **AG Jeans**, £275. agjeans.com. Shirt by **Diesel**, £140 uk.diesel.com. Jeans by **Paul Smith**, £135 paulsmith.com. Boots by **Jessie Western**, £299 jessiewestern.com. Neck ace by **Unique & Co**, £65. uniqueandco.com. On hand, from top: Ring by **Gucci**, £310 gucci.com. R.ng, £198 Ring, £179. Both by **Thomas Sabo** thomassabo.com

Opposite: Shirt by **032C**, £158. 032c.com. Jeans by **Jacob Cohen**, £310. At Harrods. harrods.com. Chain by **Rokit**, £18 rokit.co.uk. Green necklace, £26,700. Black necklace, £8,250. Both by **Shamballa Jewels**. At Frost Of London frostoflondon.co.uk. Ring necklace by **Dolce & Gabbana**, £2,950 dolcegabbana.com. Bracelet by **Gucci**, £325 gucci.com. On right hand from top: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. Ring, £198. Ring, £179. Both by **Thomas Sabo**. thomassabo.com. On left hand, from top: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. Ring by **Thomas Sabo**, £119. Belt, stylist's own

Jacket, £750. Shirt, £440. Both by **Philipp Plein**. philipp-plein.com. On right hand: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. gucci.com. On left hand, from top: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. Ring by **Thomas Sabo**, £119

Shirt, £150. Jeans, £110 Both by **G-Star Raw**. g-star.com Belt by **Bottega Veneta**, £625 bottegaveneta com. Boots, £299. Left boot buckle, £15. Both by **Jessie Western** jessiewestern.com. Right boot buckle by **Gucci**, £535. gucci.com. Necklace by **Unique & Co**, £65. uniqueandco.com. On right hand, from left: Ring, £179. Ring, £198. Both by **Thomas Sabo** thomassabo.com Ring by **Gucci**, £310. On left hand, from left: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. Ring by **Thomas Sabo**, £119

Jacket by **Calvin Klein Jeans**, £95. calvinkle n.co.uk. Collarless jacket, £360. Jeans, £205. Both by **Frame**. frame-store com. On right hand, from left: Ring, £179. Ring, £198. Both by **Thomas Sabo** thomassabo.com. Ring by **Gucci**, £310. gucci.com. On left hand, from left: Ring by **Gucci**, £310. Ring by **Thomas Sabo**, £119

Model **Francisco Henriques at Central Models**
Casting **Paul Isaac**
Grooming **Liz Taw at Stella Creative Artists using Aveda**
Retoucher **Lisa Langdon-Banks**
Photography assistants **Andras Bartok; Jack Snell**
Fashion assistants **Georgia Medley; Emily Tighe**

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LOLA SWIMSHORT £40
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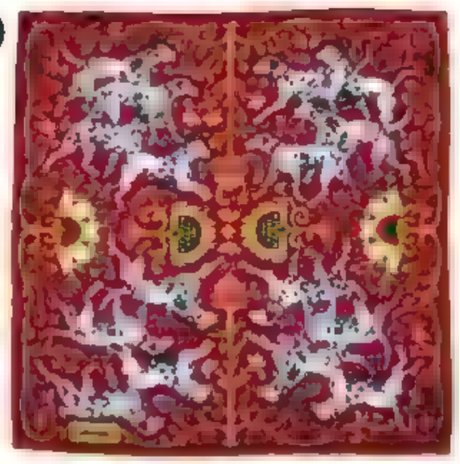

HOUND AND THISTLE
POCKET SQUARE £45
ROBERTTO'S
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MIKKA MAN
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IG: @FORGEPOISEFOOTWEAR

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IG: @PIGANDHEN

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"MONEY CAN'T BUY" SLIM WALLET £151
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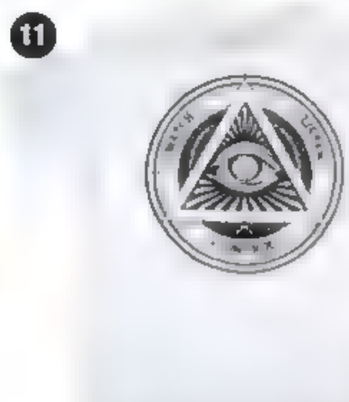

ILLUMINATI T-SHIRT – WHITE £28
KILL IT DEAD
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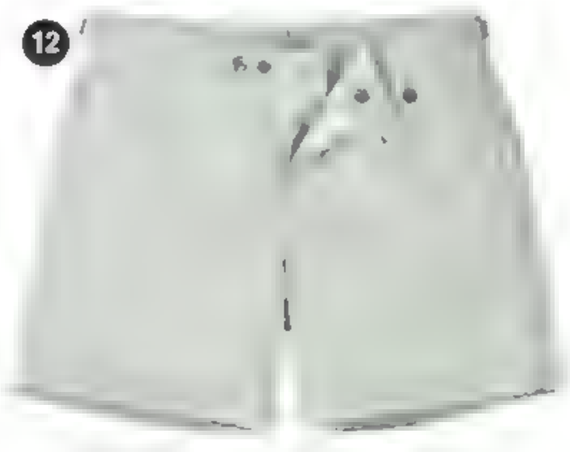

SEERSUCKER GREEN STRIPE £185
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103 HENLEY SHORT SLEEVE GREY MEL.
€99.90
MERZ B. SCHWANEN
WWW.MERZBSCHWANEN.COM

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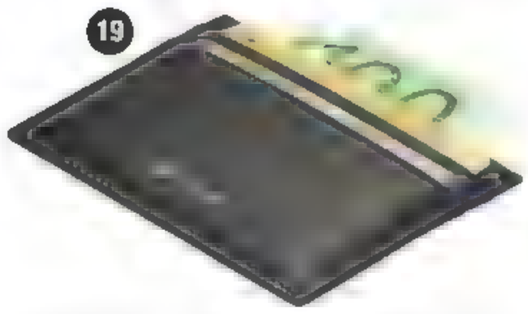

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WOOL T-SHIRT €89
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WWW.SHOP-VERENASCHEPPERHEYN.COM
IG: @VERENASCHEPPERHEYN

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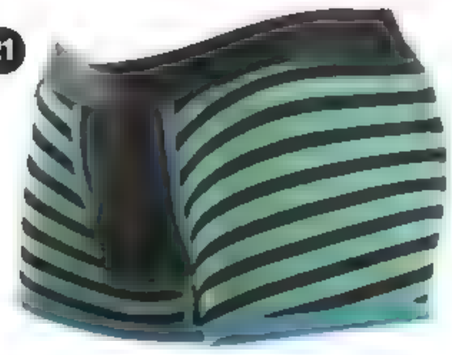

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OLI X OLIVER
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TREASON TOTING COMPANY
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WWW.CERTIFIEDLONDON.COM
IG: @CERTIFIEDLDN

33

34

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ON VACATION T-SHIRT €49
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THE RAID $675
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KINGZ LOGO LONGLINE TSHIRT £34.99
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IG: @HOUSEOFKINGZUK

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HEIST LONDON
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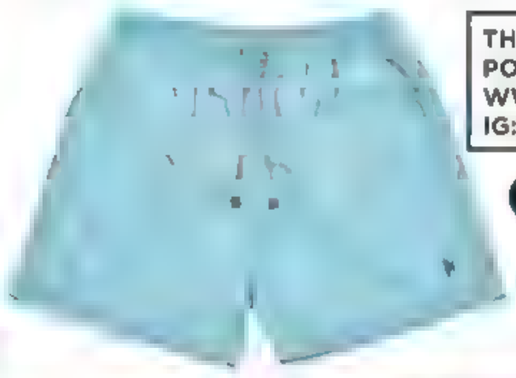

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29. Presenting Ronkko Watches, a timepiece by watchmaker **Antti Rönkkö** inspired by the perfection of Finnish design and the high heritage of Finnish craftsmanship. **30. Sprezzi Fashion** is a young German brand creating trendsetting bracelets made from natural stone beads and stainless steel. Their one and only mission is to take your outfit to the next level, without breaking the bank. **31.** New brand **Oli X Oliver** specialises in producing premium footwear. Focusing on clean and minimalist designs they pride themselves on offering quality shoes handmade in Portugal appealing to a variety of ages. Their first [illegible] **32. Treason Toting Co.** [illegible] users to embrace their journey, carry their stories, and brave the unknown. Treason Toting products are manufactured with high-quality materials in Baltimore, Maryland and are inspired by local craftsmanship. **33. Certified London.** Launched in 2016, Certified London is a modern Streetwear Lifestyle brand. The SS '18 collection is now live on the website and is stocked by lifestyle stores in the UK and Europe. The CT 8000 is one of a number of styles within the footwear range that sits alongside the apparel collection. **34.** Introducing **3L Clothing** created to open doors for those who believe in living life spiritually, mentally and physically lifted. **35. On Vacation** offers [illegible] the club. **36. REVERY** is a luxury streetwear brand founded by Cecil Dove and [illegible] and manufactured in New York City with the pervading belief that fashion is a universal language that binds us all together. **37. House of Kingz** are an [illegible] to source the best textile fabrics to make their range comfortable and stylish [illegible] from. **38. Heist London.** These [illegible] Heist" in a 3D effect, finished with [illegible] Terms & Conditions Apply). **39. Podenco Eivissa** [illegible] the word 'DISCO' [illegible] **40. OBSCENE Apparel** [illegible] **41.** Butti eyewear cases [illegible] **42. Limitato** [illegible] Portugal. **43. Dleak Leather Bow-ties** [illegible] every client has their own unique Dleak experience. They offer a variety of [illegible] ties.

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IG: @WIMBLEDONCUFFLINKCOMPANY

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WWW.YUNEEK.CO.UK
IG: @YUNNEK_FASHION

44. Megir Flyover Four variations £59 **Gilchrist Watch Co.** [illegible] Use code GQMAY10 at checkout for 10% off **45. Silver Lining Bespoke** [illegible] and youth education. Designed and made in California. Take a look at www.silverliningbespoke.com or contact info@silverliningbespoke.com **46. DanCassab** offers garments for men and women, who love luxury are sure of themselves, and who also appreciate [illegible] the modern. Each piece has its own personality, and is made to [illegible] **47. Nicolas Alexander** is a new and distinctive premium men's [illegible] are perfect for those who refuse to blend in. Featured is the Nomad Swim Short in [illegible] **48. Vetelli** is no ordinary [illegible] attention to detail woven into every thread, stitch and material. Paired with [illegible] on Amazon.co.uk **49. KA/NOA** [illegible] braiding on chest pockets with [illegible] **50. Wajed Crafters** [illegible] minded [illegible] **51. Pantos Paris** [illegible] Pantos Paris [illegible] and free returns for UK on www.pantos-paris.com **52. Wimbledon Cufflink Company** [illegible] and other twists in the traditional with high quality, wearable [illegible] for a gift or for yourself you cannot afford to miss this opportunity. GQ readers get an exclusive [illegible] **53. Claudius Cravats** - classic ascots with a twist. Style meets tradition, the perfect [illegible] or a semi-formal occasion. Cravats for your [illegible] **54. Emer Roberts Design** [illegible] and feminine personality, these architectural and art deco inspired pieces are [illegible] **55. Ram Creates Fine Art (RAM)** [illegible] to stand out. We have what it takes to [illegible] **56. Bagology London** is the creative chain [illegible] that provides [illegible] **57. Yuneek Fashion** is an exclusive clothing brand [illegible] Take a look at www.yuneek.co.uk or email sales@yuneek.co.uk

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The Fashion Collection... Continued

58

EXECUTIVE BIFOLD £44.99
BRYKER HYDE
WWW.BRYKERHYDE.COM
IG/FB/TWITTER: @BRYKERHYDE

59

HENRY NAVY $149.00
MR. EIGHT
WWW.MREIGHT.MX
SOCIAL: @MREI8HT

60

REVIVAL STEERING WHEEL BRACELET £65
THE MECHANISTS
WWW.THEMECHANISTS.COM
USE CODE "GQ" FOR FREE SHIPPING
IG: @THEMECHANISTS

61

ONECULTURE SATIN HOODIE €220
ONECULTURE
WWW.ONE-CULTURE.COM

62

THE RETRIEVER
HOUND
WWW.HOUNDACCESSORIES.COM
IG: HOUND_ACCESSORIES

63

HOLDEN €89/£79
WWW.OLEND.NET
IG: @OLEND_BACKPACKS

64

CARBON SPEED WALLET
THE FRENCHIE CO.
WWW.THEFRENCHIE.CO
IG: @THEFRENCHIECO

65

WHITE KING
HH JEWELRY
WWW.HH-JEWELRY.NET

66

SELVEDGE DENIM JEAN $195
TENDEN
WWW.TENDEN.US

67

PORTOFINO LINEN SHIRT,
BLUE MELANGE, £125
LUCA FALONI
WWW.LUCAFALONI.COM

68

JES SHOULDER/ WAIST BAG
LAPHINY
WWW.LAPHINY.COM

69

M1 TEE $35/£25
LANB
LANATIVEBRAND.COM
IG: @LANATIVEBRAND

70

WHITE SNAKE TOE TRAINERS £85
MONET FOOTWEAR
WWW.MONETFOOTWEAR.COM
IG: @MONETFOOTWEAR

71

LUXURY BATHROBE NAVY £95
WWW.THECOTTONLONDON.COM
IG: @THE.COTTON.LONDON

72

HALF BAKER DENIM SHIRT €95
WWW.SKYRTAOFICELAND.COM
IG: @SKYRTAOFICELAND

73

SIGNATURE CHOCOLATE GOLD
EDITION £65
SINK SWIMWEAR
WWW.SINKSWIMWEAR.COM
IG: @SINKSWIMWEAR

58. The Executive B fo by **Bryker Hyde** comes wi [illegible] eta ed s.ch ng thro [illegible] ft for the modern man. [illegible] respected and admired as symbo s of persona [illegible] the s mp e act of sh ft ng gears and tak ng on [illegible] heritage. Made n the U.K. **61. Oneculture** s a [illegible] promo es a n versa [illegible] **62.** [illegible] **Hound** [illegible] v s www.houndaccessories.com **63. Ölend** [illegible] made by, han with paten ed sp care **64.** Fea r ng the [illegible] **The Frenchie Co.** [illegible] ovative, tylish and unpre ede ted [illegible] **65.** [illegible] **HH Jewelry** [illegible] occas on. Pa r t w th a wat ch s tor. Whatever you want. A [illegible] **66. Tenden** s a M ch gan based mens wear and ac essories brand [illegible] d ess ng [illegible] and ac essor es at www.tenden.us **67.** Th s [illegible] **Luca Faloni** [illegible] **68. Laphiny** [illegible] **69. LANB** [illegible] this spr ng's co ec on. LANB pa s homage to the M am [illegible] **70. Monet Footwear** [illegible] premium qua ty eather nspired from C aude Monet's art expert [illegible] **71. The Cotton London** [illegible] **72. Skyrta** [illegible] men around the world. This half baker shirt s nspired by ser ene [illegible] **73.** After **Sink Swimwear** [illegible] gold pockets and qua ty mater a s [illegible]

74

DREAMS (ARABIC) MESHBACK TRUCKER CAP
WWW.STATEMEANT.COM
ORDERS@STATEMEANT.COM

75

MINIMALIST SNEAKER €139
LENGER PARIS
WWW.LENGER-PARIS.COM

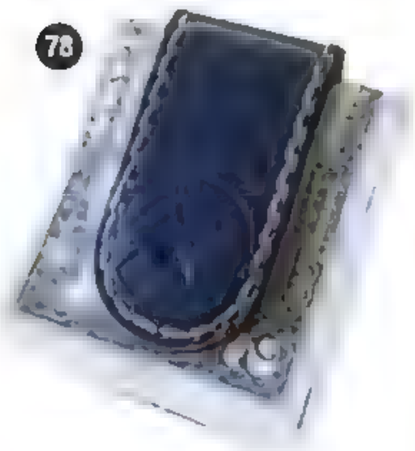
76

BLACK (DOUBLE SIDED) SWEATER £40
PLAIN BEAR
WWW.PLAINBEAR.CO.UK
IG: @PLAINBEARUK

77

SPARTAN BOXERS IN BLUE €32
WWW.SPARTANUNDERWEAR.COM
HELLO@SPARTANUNDERWEAR.COM

78



LEATHER MONEY CLIP $40
COLORED RED LEATHER GOODS
WWW.COLOREDREDLEATHERGOODS.COM
IG: @COLOREDREDLEATHERGOODS

79

STARK BRACELET £75
TISSUVILLE
WWW.TISSUVILLE.COM

80

PATTERNED SILK TIE $52
DMITRY TIES
WWW.DMITRYTIES.COM
IG: @DMITRYTIES

81

THE MOUNTAIN HOODIE £34.99
ORIGINAL HUSKY
WWW.ORIGINALHUSKY.COM

82

CLASSIC SNAPBACK $33
PALMERAMIA
WWW.PALMERAMIA.COM
IG: @PALMERAMIA

83

WALLET £36.99
EMINENCE WALLET
18CM X 10CM
WWW.EMINENCEWALLETS.CO.UK

84

BLACK MAMBA BRACELET
LVK JEWELRY
LVKJEWELRY.COM

85

THE PIERCEN BASEBALL HAT $24
KING & FIFTH SUPPLY CO
WWW.KINGANDFIFTH.COM
$5 GIFT CARD – USE CODE "KFGQ"

86

STERLING SILVER KNOT BAND £70
SIR STAG
WWW.SIRSTAG.COM

87

KING SIGNET RING IN TITANIUM
BLACK $430.00
MARCOS DE ANDRADE
WWW.MARCOSDEANDRADE.COM

88

HAND PAINTED 'DBZ' STRAPBACK
HAT $70
TEZCUSTOMZ
WWW.TEZCUSTOMZ.BIGCARTEL.COM
IG: @TEZCUSTOMZ

89

THE CUSTOMISABLE N2 WALLET £42
IMOSSI LONDON
WWW.IMOSSI.LONDON
IG: @IMOSSI.LONDON

90

GRAY SIGNATURE TRENCH COAT £360
LOGO PULLOVER £125
MOHO
WWW.MOHOCOMPANY.COM
IG: @MOHOCOMPANY_OFFICIAL

74. Statemeant is a fashion brand which aims to spread positivity through its clothing. Their designs take inspiration from all around the world and not only to make bold statements but also to raise awareness of ethical and environmental matters, including Mental health and wellbeing. **75. Lenger Paris.** The minimalist sneakers are designed by Fernando with style within mind, romantic lines and hidden stitches. Made in a family-run factory in Portugal, using the finest quality, sustainable materials like full grain tanned leather. Margaret Howell's SS19 Within memory campaign. **76.** Established with the ethos less is more **Plain Bear** brings you a collection of timeless pieces. Inspired by nature and a keen eye, the brand's range of sweatshirts, t-shirts, jumpers and beyond. **77.** Protect your family and friends from mobile phone radiation. All of the **Spartan** boxers, briefs, boxer briefs and trunks are made with a topper fabric, incorporating silver fibres within the cotton of the pouch that blocks 99% of mobile phone radiation. Spartan Underwear is available to purchase online at www.spartanunderwear.com **78. Colored Red Leather Goods** strive to make goods suitable for various lifestyles that will, regardless of fashion trends, last for years to come. Each piece is hand crafted and assembled in Portugal. **79. Tissuville** is a luxury, handmade accessories brand, specialising in bracelets, manufactured in the UK from the combination of the highest quality materials. With the ever-changing pace of the fashion industry, it's easy to get lost. Tissuville's mission is to take classic accessory and update it for today's modern gentleman. **80. DMITRY Ties** have redefined fashion by introducing a unique and diverse palette of colours and patterns. Each tie is made from the finest Italian silk, hand-cut and sewn in London. Dmitry Ties aim to take a classic accessory and update it for today's modern gentleman. **81. Original Husky** provides premium wear for the whole family, with a range of outerwear, knitwear, t-shirts, sweaters and accessories. Original Husky's your new go-to brand for everyday apparel that you will not have to change for the rest of the year. Whether you're looking for minimalistic, wearable and durable apparel. **82. PalmEraMia.** Enjoy the hat that represents the perfect sweet spot between comfort and style. Take a look at PalmEraMia's range of hats and apparel. Profits are donated to help those without access to clean water around the world. **83. Eminence Wallet.** Eminence Wallets are handmade in Italy. This is the wallet for you. Made with finest leather it is designed to hold notes and cards neatly and securely. Whether you're looking for a gift or just treating yourself, Eminence Wallets will be perfect. **84.** Each Mamba mini bracelet by **LVK Jewelry** a company committed to giving back to the greater good. Whenever, be sure to use code GQ10 for 10% off at lvkjewelry.com (until stocks last) **85. King & Fifth** specialise in high quality, affordable hats for every occasion. Get $5 OFF your first order by using code KFGQ at checkout. Free UK delivery on orders over $60 and worldwide shipping $6. **86.** In a world full of copycats stop sacrificing your style with the cookie cutter approach. Be original. **Sir Stag.** Mens jewellery, with forms based on the unique range from an Australian Artist. Each piece is made to order. www.sirstag.com or contact us at sirstag.com **87. Marcos de Andrade.** The King Signet Ring is made from sterling silver and titanium and embedded with black crystals. **88. Tezcustomz** is a unique brand that provides professional custom painting service for all your sneaker needs. Please email us at tezcustomz@gmail.com for more details. **89.** Customise your own wallet style with a custom card and note mix from **imossi london.** Machined from a premium aluminium alloy, the wallet holds up to 12 cards from RFID protection to prevent card clash. The variety of interchangeable coloured traps adds an element of fun while secure, storing up to 10 cards including notes. Add that extra personal touch, why not have your initials engraved? **90. MOHO** is a brand that is always dedicated to pushing the boundaries of fashion. MOHO questions the ambiguous boundaries that can not be set [illegible]

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Timely Fashion... Tick Tock!

1

KARL-LEIMON
WWW.KARLLEIMONWATCHES.COM

2

BRONZE-GREY $399
TSAO BALTIMORE
WWW.TSAOBALTIMORE.COM
IG: @TSAOBALTIMORE

3

BRIXTON WATCH WITH JET BLACK STRAP $229
MONSIEUR WATCH CO.
WWW.MONSIEURWATCHCO.COM
IG: @MONSIEURWATCHCO

4

SUNRISE $122
SIR DOUGLAS WATCHES
WWW.SIRDOUGLASWATCHES.COM
IG: @SIRDOUGLASWATCHES

5

DISCOVERY BROWN VINTAGE $99 AUD
PETER DANIEL
WWW.PETERDANIEL.COM.AU
IG: @PETERDANIELOFFICIAL

6

PHOBOS BLACK €119
GRAVITHIN
WWW.GRAVITHIN.COM
IG: @GRAVITHIN

7

THE ELITE
OTTEGA
WWW.OTTEGA.CO.UK
FB/TWITTER: @OTTEGALONDON
IG: @OTTEGA.LONDON

8

THE SPIRE $350
FIN WATCHES
WWW.FINWATCHES.COM
IG: @FINWATCHES

9

REMBRANDT GREY $94.99
WORTELBOER WATCH
WWW.WORTELBOERWATCH.COM
IG: @WORTELBOERWATCH

10

MODEST BLUE £404
BLEAU WATCHES
WWW.BLEAUWATCHES.COM
IG: @BLEAUWATCHES

11

OCEAN NAVIGATOR £899
OCEAN CRAWLER WATCH CO.
WWW.OCEANCRAWLER.COM
IG: @OCEANCRAWLERWATCHCO

12

JET BLACK / CHERRY £60.00
NARWOOD
WWW.NARWOOD.COM

13

SAGRADA FAMILIA COLLECTION $105
WWW.TOROLUNA.COM
IG: @TORO_LUNA_WATCHES

14

4D CONCRETE WATCH AUTOMATIC SIGNATURE EDITION $860
WWW.22DESIGNSTUDIO.NET
IG: @22DESIGNSTUDIO

1. Karl-Leimon. The "affordable luxury" watch brand with classic watch designs that [illegible] Karl-Leimon Watches Long unsatisfied by both the overwhelming trend of minimalism and over complexity in contemporary watch design, decided to [illegible] and Japanese manufacturing to people at an affordable price After the launch of their first model in USA and Japan in 2017, the brand [illegible] to bring out new models that reflect their passion for classic design at [illegible] **2. Tsao Baltimore** [illegible] constructed with high quality components. Designed with an interchangeable leather strap and a luxury programmable watch [illegible] more com **3. Monsieur Watch Company** is a Canadian company that started with the [illegible] down to the custom stainless steel case The brand ethos is rooted back to a time where [illegible] back class Bring back character Bring [illegible] **4. Sir Douglas Watches.** [illegible] dome trimmed [illegible] Watches are [illegible] stainless steel case features a [illegible] with a **5. Peter Daniel** [illegible] has progressed from its initial Genesis Collection and now [illegible] Discover Range of watches Each Peter Daniel [illegible] balance and harmony of style and functionality to emphasise [illegible] Precisely designed, inspired [illegible] **6.** The **Gravithin** line is inspired by the natural satellites in the universe comprising both classic [illegible] **7. Ottega** specialises in [illegible] and Jacquet Suisse [illegible] for the £200 [illegible] pay, the smaller shipping fee Terms and Conditions apply. **8. Fin Watches.** Your time [illegible] 24 hour [illegible] hour of the day, reminding you to make every second count Modern photography, [illegible] **9. Wortelboer Watch** [illegible] born out of the need to help impoverished children around the world to get better access to education [illegible] **10. Bleau Watches** is a young Australian [illegible] Swiss movement [illegible] They don't compromise on the overall [illegible] The Modest range has three [illegible] E404 [illegible] Bleauwatches com **11. Ocean Crawler's** new Ocean Navigator is a [illegible] **12. Narwood** a watch created for a sustainable future By working alongside charities Narwood is able to plant a tree in areas affected by [illegible] Quote code GQ for 5% off, expires 03 05 2019 **13. Toro Luna Watches** [illegible] **14.** Since 2007 **22 Design Studio** [illegible] concrete material, create personal accessories inspired by [illegible]

LA CRÈME $250
MARGAUX & CAMILLA
WWW.MARGAUXANDCAMILLA.COM
IG: @MARGAUXANDCAMILLA

ULYSSES EMERALD GREEN FROM €159
THE TOC WATCH
WWW.THETOCWATCH.COM
IG: @THETOCWATCH

CHOTOVELLI INTEGRALE G3
CHOTOVELLI & FIGLI WATCH CO.
WWW.CHOTOVELLI.COM

ORIGINAL MONARCH £74.99
AION WATCH COMPANY
WWW.AIONWATCHCO.COM
IG: @AIONWATCHES

DANDYLINE €419
MAKELØS
WWW.MAKELOS.DE

15. Margaux & Camilla [illegible] Alcantara, ambient lighting, sapphire glass and a quality Swiss Movement to create a watch that is both easy on the [illegible] **16.** [illegible] **Toc** [illegible] **17. Chotovelli & Figli Watch Company** was established in 2005, producing watches that are inspired by the gauges you would find in the aviation industry as well as in classic Italian made cars. "Integrale" translated from Italian means 'the complete', this [illegible] **18. Aion Watch Company** [illegible] design and quality materials to create timeless watches that can be worn at any occasion. Buy online at www.aionwatchco.com **19. Makeløs.** The DANDYLINE is inspired by historical dandy a man of simple refined elegance. They have combined very high-quality materials in an inconspicuous design. In addition, they have found a way to offer top quality materials at low prices. €419 at www.makelos.de or email team@makelos.de for more information

The Bar Tab... That's The Spirit!

1. Try **Douglas Laing**'s The Epicurean Lowland Malt Scotch Whisky, a fresh, zesty, easy drinking Lowland spirit. The family firm behind the brand recommend mixing with [illegible] apple juice, plenty of ice and a mint sprig for the [illegible] £36.99 at specialist spirits retailers. Find The Epicurean on Instagram **@remarkable_malts**

2. Duck and Crutch is a London ("Kensington") Dry Gin [illegible] produced, distilled, bottled and finished, by self-taught distillers and entrepreneurs Geordie and Hollie Found in the heart of Kensington, the spirit is a [illegible] with a subtle [illegible] spice and a Darjeeling tea finish. Serve over ice with tonic and fresh lemon. Available for £50 at **www.duckandcrutch.co.uk** or see what they have been [illegible] on Instagram **@duckandcrutchgin**

3. Inspired by nature, led by science. Crafted by hand. Combining [illegible] distillation process and a closely guarded secret blend of botanicals, [illegible] molecular structure this new luxury spirit from Greater Manchester tastes very different from person to person. **Worsley Gin** has a smooth [illegible] and incredible depth of flavour that differentiates this truly luxury Gin from [illegible]. Available from **www.worsleygin.co.uk**

4. Icelandic Mountain Spirits. Inspired by the [illegible] and [illegible], Iceland's Gold Medal Winner Icelandic Mountain Vodka and the Eagle Gin are the newest addition to Costco here in the UK. Visit **www.icelandicmountainvodka.is**

5. Rum and Coffee, Shaken or Stirred. Introducing award winning **RumJava** Artisan Crafted Rums. All natural and inspired by a passion for Caribbean culture, rum and coffee, RumJava is infused with Java'Mon coffee and [illegible]. Proudly 100% handcrafted, hand-filled, and hand sealed. Find RumJava at **www.rumjava.com** and at GQ Shops

6. The Arran Malt The Bothy' is a stunning small batch Single Malt Scotch Whisky which has been matured in small [illegible] casks. The [illegible] of cask means that the whisky has greater complexity and richness and the resulting whisky is sweet, spicy and full of interesting fruity flavours. Winner at the World Whiskies Awards 2018 coming top in its category, this whisky can be purchased from good specialist whisky shops or from **www.arranwhisky.com** A wonderful gift for anyone who appreciates a great quality, hand crafted Single Malt. RRP £49.99

7. Savage Vines deliver wine from independent family owned vineyards straight to your door. Not only do members get exclusive wines, the Savage community, have access to exclusive restaurant deals with some of London's hippest establishments and badass playlists to accompany their wines via their Spotify Channel Savage FM. Find out more about the number 1 wine subscription on earth at **www.savagevines.co.uk** and use coupon code 'GQSAVAGE' on checkout for your 4th box for free. Expires 31st Oct 2019

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The Grooming Edit...

1. Urban Jack s range of natural, eco-friendly Shave and Skincare products will make you rethink your daily routine. Our Refreshing Exfoliating Face Wash, the Invigorating Shave Serum with Vitamin E and Aloe Vera, will leave your skin feeling fresh and revitalised. Use code AGQ for 15% discount on the range at **www.urbanjack.com** (expires 31/07/2018)

2. Percy Nobleman grooming products for the gentleman on the go, yet family at heart. This hand-crafted range of bespoke toiletries was inspired by Percy's love of the great outdoors and adventure. Percy Nobleman is a British brand influenced by times gone by, offering heritage inspired gentlemen's grooming. Follow Percy's story, told through unique custom cover designs on Instagram **@percynobleman** or take a look at **www.percynobleman.com**

3. The Bearded Savant uses organic ingredients and therapeutic grade essential oils to craft premium men's grooming products in Austin, TX. The collection of beard oil, beard balm, and Barbershave Cream are available in six scents with notes spanning redwood, tobacco, citrus, earthy, fruit, and exotic. Find them at **@thebeardedsavant** or visit them at **thebeardedsavant.com** Live Handsome

4. Peluzzi Organica combines remarkably crafted, super botanical products with the latest in top-of-the-range grooming equipment. The Beard Butter is a luxurious blend of natural oils and butters, which is an essential grooming must-have. Use code QMPC for 10% off (expires 30/09/2018) available at **www.peluzziorganica.com**

5. Pamper your lads with the **Charlie Dapper New York** range of premium hair and beard grooming products for men who want to achieve the best looking hair and beard. Each pack contains two products. They are also offering complimentary grooming and style advice to readers. Exclusive GQ readers save 20% with code "GQ20" at **www.charliedapper.com** (expires 31/10/18)

6. The Nordic success **Nõberu of Sweden** are dedicated to more than just selling quality products but want to change the market and the way we think about men's grooming. The hair care range includes everything from wash and styling products to volumising sprays and more. Visit **www.noberu.se**

7. Snakesbeard Limited Have you been looking for exciting luxurious natural and organic grooming products for gentlemen who care about their appearance. Use code GQ20 for a 20% discount at **www.shakesbeard.co.uk** (expires 08/08/2018) Follow Snakesbeard on Instagram **@shakesbeardco**

8. Fresh Beards a family owned and operated company that crafts some of the finest beard essentials on the planet. The range is packed with nutrient rich butters, oils and waxes that help to soften, nourish and moisturise both beard and skin. Each product is hand crafted in the USA and shipped out to you in a gift ready box. Get your beard game on at **www.freshbeards.com** and start your path to the ultimate beard.

9. Inspired by the rugged wilderness of Alberta Canada **HARD Bar Soap Co.** offers those who #LIVEHARD an all-natural cleansing experience. Complete line of products with a variety of irresistibly masculine scents. Visit **hardbarsoapco.com** to order yours today! Or email **info@hardbarsoapco.com**

10. MR. Jamie Stevens. Mr. Disguise Spray, £18.00. A concealer for men that covers grey hairs instantly with the swipe of a comb for instant coverage. Perfect for men who want to keep their beard looking groomed, give the appearance of thicker hair and reduce the appearance of thinning hair. Comes in three colours to match your hair colour. Available at **www.mrjamiestevens.com**

11. Meet Master Barber and founder of **Ashanti Cosmetics.** Created to smooth the tell-tale signs of its roughest, toughest, most unruly grooms. An essential treatment for those sorry patches, chapped lips and weather beaten skin. Packed with 100% natural organic and vegan ingredients. Master balm is a luxurious, multi-tasking, moisturising, conditioning and perfect feeling skin treat. Visit **www.ashanticosmeticsltd.com** for more information and to purchase. GQ readers get 15% discount with code "GQ" (expires 31/10/18)

12. Luxury, compact, portable, travel grooming set by **Wilde & Harte.** Expertly handcrafted razors and shaving brushes, perfect for the gentleman on the move. Prices start from £60. Made in the UK. Visit **www.wildeandharte.co.uk/GQ** for pricing. Ole Otte

13. Charlemagne Premium Matte Pomade is a high-quality styling product developed by barbers with over 40 years experience. We're using only the highest quality ingredients. Charlemagne Premium was even able to win a competitor's contest at Beer Expo in 2015 and available at **www.charlemagne-premium.com** and via Amazon Prime

14. MaBeard White Lightning is a sweet Southern delight with an "intoxicating" blend of Tennessee whiskey and a touch of caramel you don't mind looking like a drunk. It's as smooth as Tennessee whiskey, as sweet as Southern women, and as addictive as a glass of granny. Visit **www.mabeard.com**

15. Bearded Destruction is the latest brainchild to be developed by bearded brethren striving to crush the boring, lifeless, tasteless, odourless, shapeless, weak, pathetic beard and help you achieve optimum health on your path of beardom. Grow your beard and join the fight across the Bearded Destruction Army at **www.beardeddestruction.com**

16. Dekke Hud Skincare for the Contemporary Gentleman. Dekke Hud is a premium, easy to use skincare solution for men who find it too complicated or time consuming to take care of their skin. Their high quality bio-cellulose sheet mask takes away the everyday lengthy skincare routines and replaces it with instant looking results in just 15 minutes. For more information visit **www.dekkehud.com**

17. J. Marcel Beard Company is based out of Washington, DC's premier men's beard and skincare line. Known for their flagship Beard Balm, the J. Marcel Beard Company also offers beard oil and beard soaps to keep your beard clean and conditioned. Visit **www.jmarcelbeardco.com**

18. Since 1974 **Taylor of Old Bond Street** has developed and sold the finest in Luxury Mens Grooming Products and accessories creating a brand which is synonymous with British style and quality. Visit their store at 74 Jermyn Street, St. James's London SW1Y 6LP or call **020 7930 5544** or visit them at **www.taylorsoldbondst.co.uk**

19. Stiofanpadraigcrafts started out as a hobby stemming from a love of crafting, crafted from wood. All the products are hand-made and designed in Donegal, using natural and exotic woods. What better way to start your year than with a custom-made grooming set? Seen here is the Irish Bog Oak Wood Shaving Set for £70 found at **www.spcrafts.com**

20. Uncut Standards creates exceptional grooming products for exceptional men – handmade products with raw ingredients and essential oils to set a new standard. Wet the corner. Check out their full range at **uncutstandards.com** and enter exclusive GQ offer when checking out for 15% discount. Expires 31.12.2018

21. Drifter's modern twist on men's grooming elevates your shave experience. Their Gaiter Shave Bar. This all-natural hand-made bar contains hops, steel oatmeal and peppermint, and is being put to a craft beer base, inspired by the craft-brewing industry. Gaiters are a welcome addition to your grooming ritual. Gaiter fit. at **www.driftergrooming.com**

22. If you would like to take your daily shave from seemingly mundane to something indescribably comfortable, sensual and incredible experience, **Prohibition Style** Shaving Soap is the product you've been looking for. Their prohibition-era based cocktail scents will transport you to the top floor of a speakeasy in 1920's New York, leaving you feeling moisturised. No need to go to the bar to experience the best shave of your life, just go to **www.prohibitionstyle.com** and try one of their many delicious scents.

23. Northern Ruff Co.'s Beard Wash will invigorate your senses with the refreshing scent of peppermint lime and tea-tree. Gently cleansing yet thoroughly moisturising your beard, reap the benefits of a naturally hand-crafted product designed uniquely with you in mind! Available now at **www.northernruff.com** or Email **ben@northernruff.com #northernruffco**

24. Puggerino's male grooming range, created by an independent company, is the Barber approved by Barbers across the country. Supreme Cream is the Don Corleone of the range, the most trusted and excellent grooming cream, crafted by barbers with the everyday man in mind. The range is designed perfectly for sensitive skin with all natural ingredients – includes the signature California scent with sandalwood and coconut for a real night-time formula. Full range available at **www.puggerinos.com**

25. The original skincare brand **Reluxury** have launched a unique beard oil for men's grooming. Containing 6 natural ingredients including Ylang Ylang, to give a sensational floral smell. The oil conditions the beard and hair to feel stronger and improving performance. It also keeps the beard looking moisturized with a few drops a day. Suitable for all skin types. Head to **www.reluxury.co.uk** and follow them on Instagram **@reluxuryonline**

26. The Masamune by **Tatara Razors** is a traditional safety razor for those who truly appreciate the art of shaving, ensuring a smooth and precise shave. Made of stainless steel to ensure a lifetime shaving. Limited and engraved with numbered edition. Priced at £1[illegible] at **www.tatararazors.com**

27. This hair wax Fredrich by **Van Beesley** creates a very strong hold that keeps your hair in place all day without any maintenance, letting you freely play with your hair without harming. The specially selected ingredients target hair roots, supplementing and to create a fuller look and voluminised finish. Developed and made in Germany and available at **www.van-beesley.com** or £67 or contact **info@van-beesley.com**

28. Urban Gentleman represent the festive beard culture of the modern day man. They are a movement for the unorthodox. The Urban Gentleman aims to express your individuality, and experience by giving you access to a world of grooming and fashion empowered to keep your hair and beard looking its best this summer with Urban Gentleman Products. Groom like a gentleman at **www.urbangentleman.co.uk**

29. Beard Straw Tattoo. Whatever your look **Modern Day Duke** [illegible] Luxurious Barber Grade is one of the nation's best-selling premium grooming brands. Featured this month: The Original Deluxe Beard Balm with its signature mild and discreet fragrance. Use code GQ ONLY for 15% off online at **www.moderndayduke.co.uk** or contact **sales@mgessentials.co.uk** Expires 30 Oct 2018.

30. Touch Of Herbs. The Boost or Beard Oil product for 2019 was designed with a smooth texture while offering a softening and taming effect. Boosting your beards condition and hydration. With a scent that leaves a lasting impression. Find this amazing product at **www.touchofherbs.com** or email **info@touchofherbs.com**

31. Black River beard balm by **Midwest Best Grooming Co.** For the rugged, adventurous, trailblazing kind of man. They've canned pure wilderness, and made it available for the beard that's both daring and dangerous. Free delivery to your doorstep and a host of samples. Prepare your beard for conquest the world over. Find your way around at **www.mwbgroomingco.com**

32. Selvedge Grooming. The Grooming Balm for only £4.50 is a creamy styling balm for unruly hair and beard. Specially formulated with beeswax, chamomile and bamboo extract to instantly control and soften the hair and beard appearance. Perfect for nourishing hair to maintain perfect hair with moisture. Formulated without parabens, sulfates and a bunch of other nasty chemicals. Available now at **www.selvedgegrooming.com** or contact **info@selvedgegrooming.com** for more information.

33. Vitabiotics. Whether you're a working dad or a fitness enthusiast, Wellman Energy is perfect for those leading hectic lives. The great tasting refreshing drink includes vitamins B6 and B12, magnesium and iron which contribute to normal energy release and help to reduce tiredness and fatigue. With special nutrients including Siberian Ginseng extract and Co Q10 these easy to carry, effervescent tablets also include vitamin C and zinc which contribute to normal immune system function. Visit **www.vitabiotics.com**

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The Lust List... Treat Her!

1. HAWA London [illegible] make for a [illegible] finish of 24k gold plating [illegible] view the full collection at **www.hawalondon.com** and [illegible] **@hawa.ldn** on Instagram

2. [illegible] from **ELIROSE SKINCARE**. She [illegible] serum that will replenish and moisturise her [illegible] use code GQ2018 for 15% off [illegible] **www.eliroseskincare.com**

3. [illegible] **Chic Chiq** [illegible] **www.chicchiq.com** and [illegible] **@chicchiq_beauty**

4. F R I Z Z t shirts are a limited collection [illegible] SS 2018 by designer Myrna Gutierrez owner of **M A ^ E N Studio.** The T-shirts will feature [illegible] mixing fashion pop culture and typography M A ^ E N Studio offers unique print and [illegible] Visit **www.maenstudio.work** or email **maenstudio.work@gmail.com**

5. Simon Wright [illegible] and gems [illegible] and a sit down design session at [illegible] workshop. By [illegible] Visit **www.sw-jewellery.com** email **enquiries@sw-jewellery.com** or [illegible] at IG **@sw_jewellery**

6. Cherry & the Bees [illegible] brand create [illegible] lingerie. Ms Lace set only £55 available at **www.cherryandthebees.com** [illegible] **contact@cherryandthebees.com** for more information

7. Natty + Co [illegible] go bold with unique design. Inspired [illegible] Handcrafted in Los Angeles, CA using 14k gold [illegible] **www.natty-co.com** [illegible] on IG **@nattyco_**

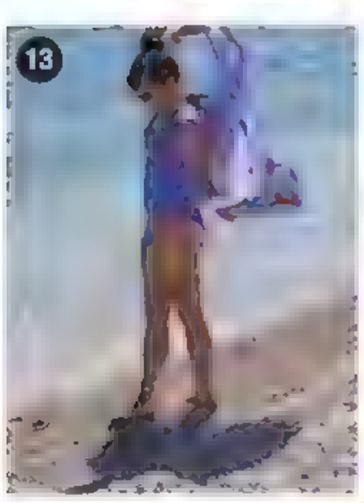
8. Willow & Grey Jewelry [illegible] styles using quality materials. Designed and [illegible] be worn for any event to update your style or [illegible] ace – the perfect way to treat yourself or a loved [illegible] **www.willowandgreyjewelry.com**

9. [illegible] of **DM Jewelry Designs** creates exquisite pieces that represent [illegible] a woman's finest qualities: beauty, strength, intelligence, pass on [illegible] ains, "I will design and re-design a piece until it perfectly captures not only [illegible] vision, but also the vision of the client who is involved in the entire design process" [illegible] **www.dmjewelrydesigns.com**

10. Masinisa [illegible] is high in fatty acid Omega 6 and Omega 9. Used daily it helps [illegible] e appearance of youthful beauty. Jewel is the secret to younger looking [illegible] with the ultimate moisturising [illegible] Visit **www.masinisa.com** to discover the whole range or [illegible] **sales@masinisa.com**

11. Niki Newd. Experience the power and purity of Scandinavian Skin Velvet Oil. Serum and Oatmeal Soap are packed with the highest quality, food grade ingredients such as Nordic berry seed oils, camelina oil and [illegible] is all you need for luxurious skin [illegible] **www.nikinewd.com** or call +**358505445044**

12. al.tru.ist [illegible] wellery line epitomising temporal designs with a [illegible] ew Stud in gold made with conflict free and ethically [illegible] look and leave the back of your lobes looking a bit [illegible] **www.altruist.nyc** [illegible] **@altruist.nyc** on Instagram to see the full collection

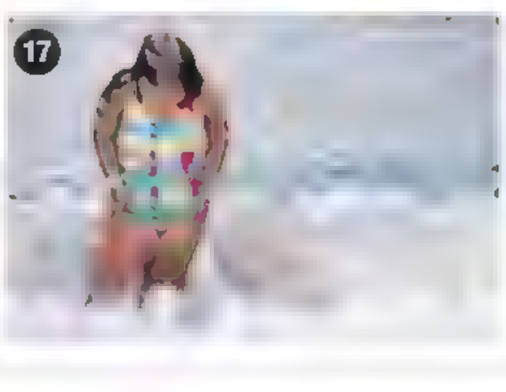


13. Menesthò [illegible] and that uses organic and recycled fabrics to create vibrant [illegible] London, use special [illegible] patterns that can be adjusted to [illegible] women visit **www.menestho.com** or follow **@menestho_official** on IG or FB **Menesthò**

14. Insignia London [illegible] ownership or can help to reduce the [illegible] ingredients such as Vitamin E, Vitamin C [illegible] oil can help your skin appear youthful, radiant and [illegible] at **www.insigniaIdn.com**

15. Beloved NYC [illegible] 18K gold fine jewelry that commemorates or [illegible] the great loves of our lives. Crafted with love in NYC. Whether you remember, your beloved [illegible] visit **www.belovedfinejewelry.com**

16. [illegible] by **Depascal Organic** offers vegan and gluten free [illegible] with only the purest organic essentials. All products are paraben, petroleum free [illegible] or chemicals. The Balm can help reduce the appearance [illegible] ageing and fine lines, visit **www.depascalorganic.com**



17. [illegible] **Nina Sharae** [illegible] the world's premium and [illegible] and [illegible] company for [illegible] women. Nina Sharae made [illegible] October 2017 by becoming the first plus company to showcase full [illegible] swimwear in Accra, Ghana. As Nina continues to break [illegible] visit **www.ninasharae.com**

18. I AM Organic [illegible] company, focusing on providing the highest quality, [illegible] products. The range includes a variety of environmentally friendly scrubs [illegible] formulated free from chemicals and dyes. The Enlightening Sugar Scrub [illegible] after shower to reveal a glowing, radiant appearance with the [illegible] ingredients of sandalwood, [illegible] and exotic [illegible] **www.iamorganicskin.com**

19. Say something special with the new Personalised Hammered Open Bangle from £69, by **Merci Maman.** Each piece of jewellery is hand engraved with the name, date or short message of your choice and delivered to you in signature gift box. Huge range of options available in sterling silver, 18k gold plate or rose gold. Visit their website at **www.mercimamanboutique.com**

20. Inspired by the Eternal City, **Roma Designer Jewelry** offers unique pieces of fine Italian design and craftsmanship that represent the ever-present effortless elegance and timeless style. Stunning pieces of sterling silver with 18k gold plating available. See the collection at **www.romadesignerjewelry.com**

21. Latham & Neve was born from the vision of Britain's most awarded Bridal Jewellery since 1997. Featured is the Ripple Bangle in 18ct white gold £2,300.00. Bar room charges every day, events, refreshments, and much more. Buy online/stockists/brochure, visit **www.lathamandneve.co.uk** or call **01580 753399**

22. Laura Miers' debut collection from her namesake brand is set to bring you a transparent celebration of Australian diamonds. The K&W Ring, set in Australian Champagne Diamonds from Western Australia and Port Sapphire from Queensland. Visit **www.lauramiers.com** and follow on IG **@lauramiersjewellery**

23. Isabelle Ecker Jewelry proudly presents the Eternity Flower Cocktail Ring with dazzling red garnets. Philadelphia artist Isabelle Ecker creates unique contemporary jewellery for discerning women and men. Her collections of nature-inspired designs stimulate the imagination, and her special commissioned work fulfills each customer's aesthetic vision. IG **@isabelleeckerjewelry**, visit **www.isabelleeckerjewelry.com**

24. Clara in Wonderland is a small company from Tuscany. The creator of the line [illegible] Each piece is hand made by Italian seamstresses. They believe in making unique and timeless [illegible] pop-up show in Milan in June or visit **www.clarainwonderland.com** or her IG **@clarainwonderland** to see more.

25. Krisana Vigus Exfoliant [illegible] product has excellent foaming power and leaves a refreshing [illegible] visit **www.krisanavigus.com** to find out more and to view their range.

26. Étymologie is designed in Montreal with your skin's natural [illegible] Their organic Miracle Oil is high in vitamin C to help promote a natural [illegible] helps empower women in developing countries through entrepreneurship. Visit **www.etymologie.ca** or their social media **@etymologieskincare**

27. Emerald Dove [illegible] bespoke collections fuse Indian style, heritage [illegible] bring new narrative to both period and contemporary [illegible] **www.emerald-dove.london** or contact on **sales@emerald-dove.london**

28. By Lolita is a New York based jewellery brand, inspired by [illegible] timeless aesthetic collection that will have you feeling [illegible] goddess! Follow them on Instagram **@bylolitajewelry** or visit **www.bylolita.com**

29. Poporcelain from Copenhagen, [illegible] Pictured are the Strawberry Flower Stud Earrings [illegible] feminine studs [illegible] flowers, cubic zirconia stones [illegible] **www.poporcelain.com** and follow on IG **@poporcelain_official**

30. Anfisa [illegible] Regenerating Balm stimulates [illegible] oxygenates and serene [illegible] resulting in the appearance of a glowing complexion. Visit **www.anfisaskin.com**

31. Inception of Beauty is a recent [illegible] to creating the highest quality make up [illegible] from mink lashes and contour palettes to make brushes, visit **www.inceptionofbeauty.com** to discover their luxurious products.

32. A Box of Happiness **The Happiness Planner** [illegible] with a journal, stickers, a set of work sheets [illegible] life. Do you want to work on your [illegible] you get one step closer to that. Visit **www.thehappinessplanner.co.uk**

33. Saturday Lashes offer seven different styles to [illegible] days of the week. Their wide [illegible] preferences. Each pair of their eyelashes are [illegible] **www.saturdaylashes.com**

34. The **Bôhten** Spring 2018 eyewear collection comes complete with their [illegible] protect your eyes harmful blue light rays from actives TV and [illegible] materials including reclaimed wood, [illegible] **www.bohten.com** and use code "GQ15" for free shipping [illegible] credit – Steve Haining **@hainingphoto**

35. Revossa Fashion a womens clothing [illegible] seekest styles with guaranteed high quality. Perfect [illegible] **www.revossafashion.com** or browse the catalogue [illegible] founder and stylist Siman He **@styledbysiman**

36. Pamela Marie is an international [illegible] over 15 years of experience in fashion design beginning [illegible] founded her own brand Pamela Marie. Debuting in 2016 at [illegible] show we are excited to see what is to come. Pictured is her Silk Floral Maxi Dress £256 [illegible] **www.hollyville.com** or email **hollyvilleboutique@gmail.com** for [illegible]

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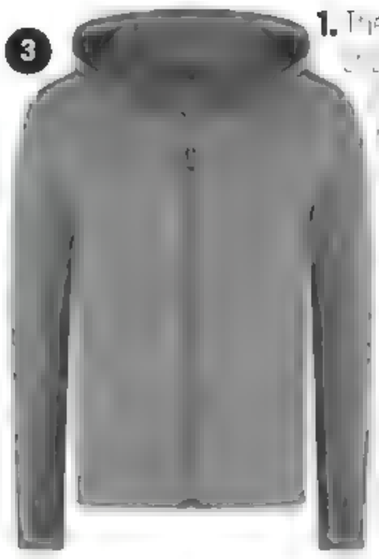
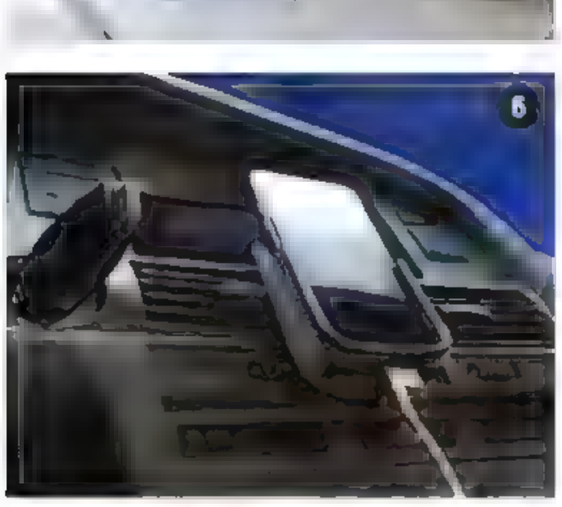


1. These ponchos from **The People's Poncho** are your new go to waterproof version of those Mackintosh things that, let's be honest, stay in the cloakroom for your yearly commute. Lightweight, packable and perfect for festivals and for only £65. Take a look at **www.thepeoplesponcho.co.uk** and follow them **@thepeoplesponcho**

2. BAK London have created a range of elegant leather phone cases and accessories. Handcrafted from premium high weight materials, they are available in a variety of colours and textures such as the featured red and black croc pattern. Phone cases only £25 at **www.baklondon.com** & **@baklondon**

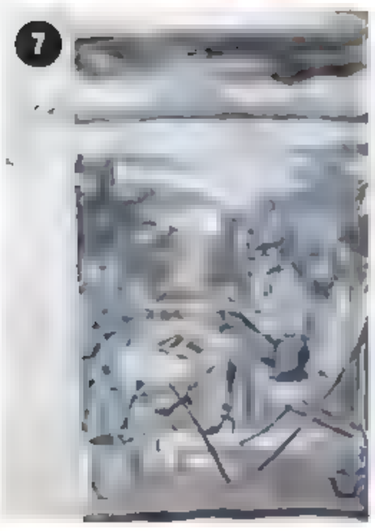
3. The ultimate hoodie designed for cold and wet mornings and days, here it is. The smart hoodie by **OHMME** is a smart wearable with built-in lights and Alexa. OHMME is the perfect companion for the use code GQ10 to get 10% off any items at **OHMME.com** (expires 31 Oct)

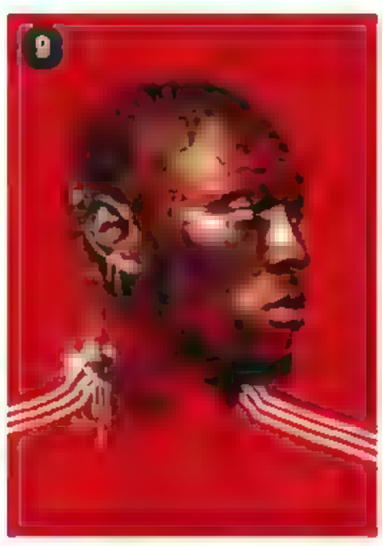
4. KitSound have a new smart speaker, Voice One, packed full of features for the 21st Century. It offers best-in-class HiFi sound, the latest in retail Alexa voice control, protection against the elements, a modern design that will look great in any home, and Wi-Fi Multi-room with Amazon and featuring Alexa Voice Shopping. The Voice One is available to order now from KitSound and all leading UK retailers, giving you a smart speaker with so much more for only £99.99. Find out more and pre-order yours today at **www.kitsound.co.uk** and join the conversation using **#TalkToMe**

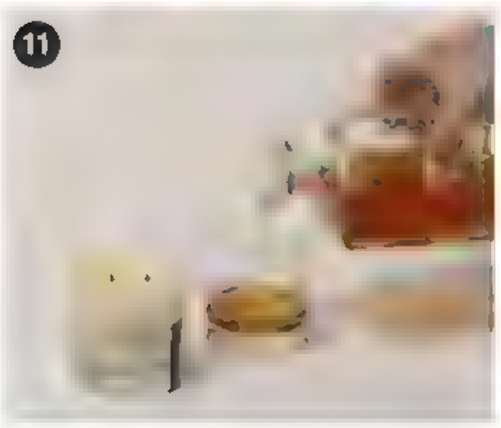


5. Created by the team at Uclip, a Montreal-based company based in Montreal, Canada that specializes in 3D printing technologies and special high quality materials, **Uclip** is the universal clip for mobile devices. Light, stable, easy to use, Uclip is compact, durable,

Home Affairs...







1. Tamara Nelson is a Newport Beach California based artist. Working in a variety of mediums, Tamara is best known for her textured abstract paintings featured in residential and commercial projects including commissions for hotels and casinos in Las Vegas and California. Tamara offers original paintings, prints and limited edition giclees in her signature style "RESKY". Visit **www.tamaranelsonart.com** email **tamara@tamaranelsonart.com** or call **+1 949 510 6602** **2. Pullman Editions** are dedicated to posters that capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and historic automobiles. Call **020 7730 0547** or view and buy online at **www.pullmaneditions.com** **3. EQLight** is dedicated to innovative timeless design and immaculately crafted pieces. Seen here is the new Wire/3 light pendant from the Industrial Collection. They make beautiful lighting affordable for home and business decoration. More info at **www.eqlight.com** **4. Gregory Phillips Architects.** For 25 years Gregory Phillips Architects have designed beautiful houses that people are proud to call home. From contemporary interiors to new build architecture, renovation and landscape design. Winners of UK Property Awards, Best Home, Contemporary Architecture, Private Residence. Visit or call **020 7724 3040** **www.gregoryphillips.com** **5.** Having recently launched the Teak Star cutting board campaign, **Edge of Belgravia** have had a great success with their latest development. The edgy, artistic design of the Teak Star not only makes for a great chopping board, but also a stylish serving platter, making it the perfect addition to any dining dinner parties. Still available on Kickstarter. Visit www.edgeofbelgravia.co.uk **6.** The Black Label line of natural soy candles by California-based **Craft + Foster** offers a range of scents that appeal to men and women alike. With muted packaging and fragrant throws, these candles will subtly enhance the brilliance of life's everyday moments, no matter where you are. Visit **www.craftandfoster.com** Follow **@craftandfoster** **7.** Award winning portrait artist and author **Celia Burbush** produces collections based on in depth interviews with clients, during which she takes them on a journey through their most treasured moments past or future. Celia distils these stories into enigmatic original artworks using her unique method and style. Visit **www.celiaburbush.com** or call **01900 827041 / 07799 627804** for commissions **8. Caroline Collom** is a British born painter based between Australia and the United Kingdom. Collom works primarily with oil paint and hopes to expose an inward and outward transformation of the human condition. Her paintings through intersecting planes that reveal subtle differences in the human psyche. The Neptune 2017 (185 x 195 cm) Visit **www.carolinecollom.com** email **carolinecollom@gmail.com** to view more. **9. I AM Dimitri** is a multi-disciplinary digital artist inspired by pop and street culture, his digital and mixed media works have been compared to Andy Warhol's Pop Art series. This unique method of art creation is the perfect solution for Private Commissions, so why not visit **www.iamdimitri.co.uk** or **@iamdimitri.co.uk** **10. Bourbon & Boots** is a unique, Southern, USA inspired online retailer that brings the Southern lifestyle experience to friends, exclusively through the sale of rare, unique handcrafted gifts that celebrate life in the Ole South. Famous Whiskey, Legendary Stories, Rare Classics. Visit **www.bourbonandboots.com** **11.** Hailing from Nashville, Tennessee **Ranger Station** pours candles that help you set the mood by bringing the great outdoors inside. Their range of scents, made with soy wax are poured into sturdy whiskey glasses so that the scent lingers long after the last bit of the candle. Take a look at the scents they offer for only £36 at **www.rangerstation.co** or email **hello@rangerstation.co** to find out more. **12. Courtney Senior** is an artist located in Toronto, Canada. Her work is collected worldwide and has been featured at various galleries and exhibitions throughout Canada. Courtney comes to her finished pieces from a love of colour and movement to evoke emotion from her work. She describes her paintings as a reflection of the journey through life, where the joys and sorrows of life are intertwined. Seen here is Bittersweet Symphony, 30 x 30 inches, acrylic on canvas, 2017. Visit **www.courtseniorart.com** or follow **@courtseniorart** **13. Axel Vindenes** is an artist from Bergen, Norway. He is inspired by Edvard Munch and Henri Matisse. Max Rohde and Pablo Picasso. Visit **www.axelvindenesstudio.com** or email **contact@axelvindenesstudio.com** to find out more. **14.** Seen here is Sync. High quality pieces which combine timeless aesthetics with practicality. **Rigg** manufactures a wide range of other products including coffee tables and desks in Birmingham, UK. Take a look at **www.rigg.uk** or call **0800 6510001** for more information.

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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

Start married life in style by celebrating in a new family abode; *Rosemary Brooke* finds five properties to foster wedded bliss

HALL LANE, OTLEY, IPSWICH
This historic manor was built circa 1500, and retains plenty of original Tudor features, including panelling believed to have come from Cardinal Wolsey's chambers at Hampton Court Palace. Set on 9.55 acres, it has a pool and tennis court. Guide price: £2.5 million. *Savills: 01473 234800*

From French vineyards to Italian villas, Scottish castles to English country houses, the prospect of a wedding encourages brides-to-be to seek out the most bucolic settings in which to pledge their troth. A beautiful house and grounds provide the perfect backdrop for a fairytale wedding, but a lucky few get to call these romantic venues home.

One such property is Otley Hall in Suffolk, a Grade I-listed Tudor hall steeped in history. Formerly the seat of the sixteenth-century explorer Bartholomew Gosnold, who travelled extensively to the New World and named Cape Cod, it is now hired out for weddings. Its combination of rural charm and accessible location make it a popular choice the 10-bedroom house is seven miles from Ipswich, which has a regular train service to London. The grounds are a mix of formal and informal planting, and include a rose garden, a moat, two thatched summerhouses and a dovecote, providing plenty of idyllic spots for photographs.

For those seeking the sun, Villa Mostaccini in Liguria is one of the most spectacular residences along the Italian Riviera. The elegant interiors are built for entertaining with three spacious reception rooms and large terraces offering breathtaking views across the Mediterranean. The substantial kitchens are big enough to cater for up to 200 people, making it an ideal place to host a wedding feast. Its classical, ornate architecture, hewn from local stone, looks particularly beautiful at sunset, and the villa has long been a source of artistic inspiration

Monet is reputed to have painted some of his landscapes from the top of its medieval observatory tower, which has sweeping vistas of the rolling hills, dotted with cypress trees, and an endless expanse of azure sea.

Equally enchanting is a substantial estate in Brignoles, in the Var region of Provence, which encompasses an impressive 182

hectares of beautiful countryside. It's hard to imagine a more tranquil or picturesque place for a wedding ceremony – there are eight acres of vines, extensive olive groves and woodland, along with an ornamental lake that can be used for bathing during the summer months. Closer to the house, there's a large swimming pool and tennis court, while the property's 11 bedrooms make it particularly suited to large gatherings.

While hiring a wedding venue might make for a perfect day, living in one must surely bring any couple a lifetime of happiness – or at the very least, save you from needing to book a honeymoon.

BRIGNOLES, VAR, FRANCE
With a flourishing vineyard and spectacular gardens, this French estate is postcard-pretty and a substantial size. Nice airport is an hour's drive away, but the property also comes with its own helipad, for those who prefer to travel in style. POA.
Beauchamp Estates: 00 33 493 944 545

BORDIGHERA, LIGURIA, ITALY
There's no shortage of sun at this Italian villa occupying a secluded spot overlooking the Mediterranean. It has recently been renovated and has seven bedrooms, a two-bedroom staff apartment, underground parking, a gym and a spa. €19.5 million. *Knight Frank: 00 39 334 9323 000 or 020 7861 1057*

SYERSTON HALL, NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
With six bedrooms and three reception rooms, the principal part of this Grade II listed manor has plenty to recommend it, while the 23 acres of parkland can accommodate the largest of wedding parties. £1.85 million. *Humberts: 01159 505444*

SOUTH BOHEMIA, CZECH REPUBLIC
Dating from 1565, this renovated baroque chateau is located in the atmospheric environs of the Lužnice nature park, 120 kilometres from Prague. Spanning 26,307 square feet, the accommodation includes a romantic bridal suite and has hosted plenty of wedding celebrations. POA.
Christie's International Real Estate: 00 420 257 328 281

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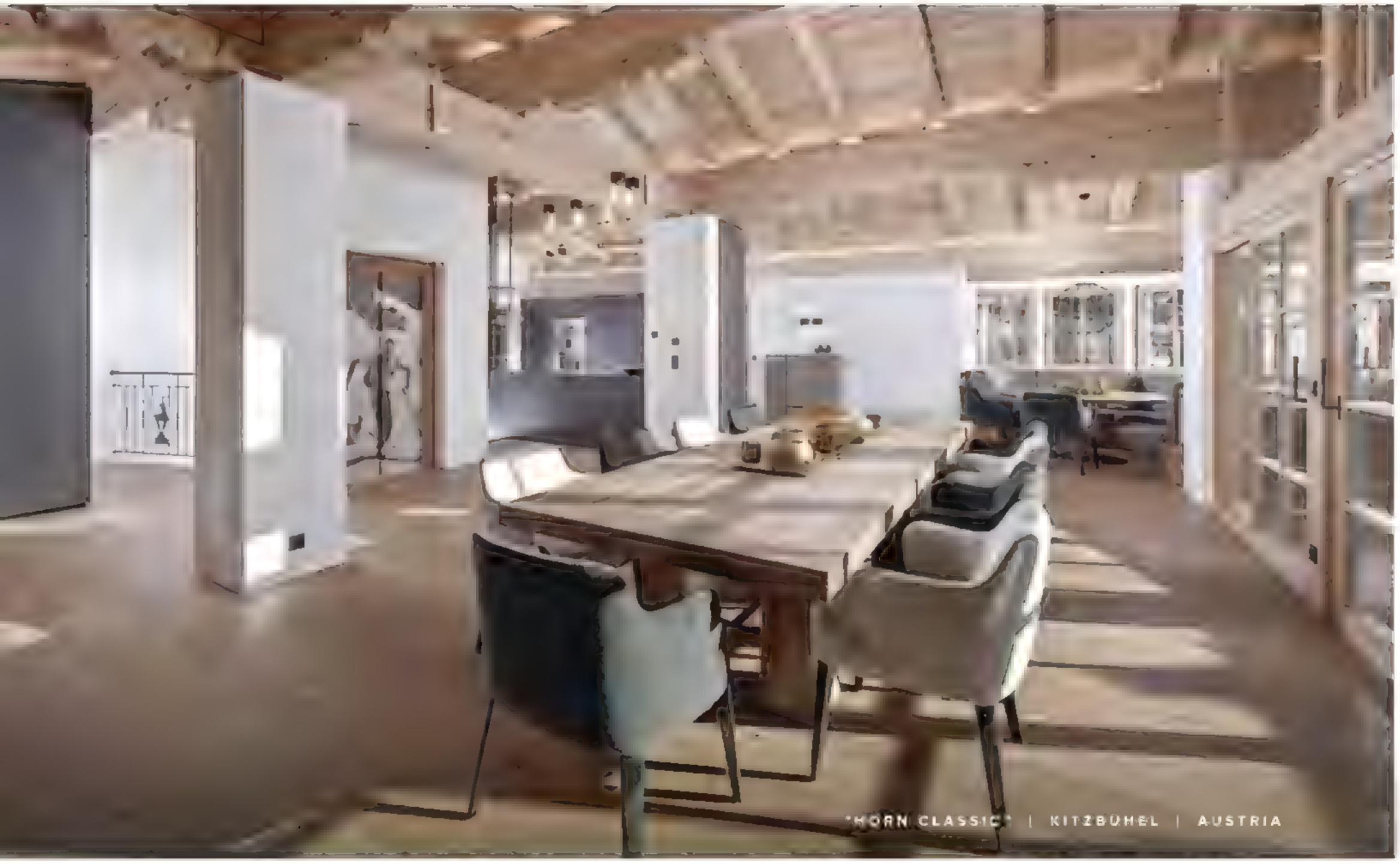

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[redacted] | OFFICE@FIRSTKITZBU[redacted]

Holly Lodge

SOUTH KENSINGTON SW10

RS Holly Lodge is discreetly positioned moments from the Fulham Road in a quiet and secluded location, with tranquil green views over the communal gardens of Evelyn Gardens. Dating back to the 1820s, this specific neighbourhood was a small village called Old Brompton with Thistle Grove originally being the name for Drayton Gardens.

Nowadays Little Chelsea and Old Brompton have merged into a bustling metropolis with a multitude of fantastic restaurants and shops within walking distance.

With its own private entrance on Thistle Grove, Holly Lodge benefits from privacy and a grand entrance hall leading into the raised ground floor entertainment rooms. Created and designed for the current owner, the raised ground floor is made up of a large open plan kitchen dining room with elegant Victorian features and a bay fronted window to the rear.

This double fronted building enables the owner to live with fabulous lateral space; a grand living room and secret study fitted with clever pocket doors enables you to have the entire floor plate open plan or sectioned off for personal use.

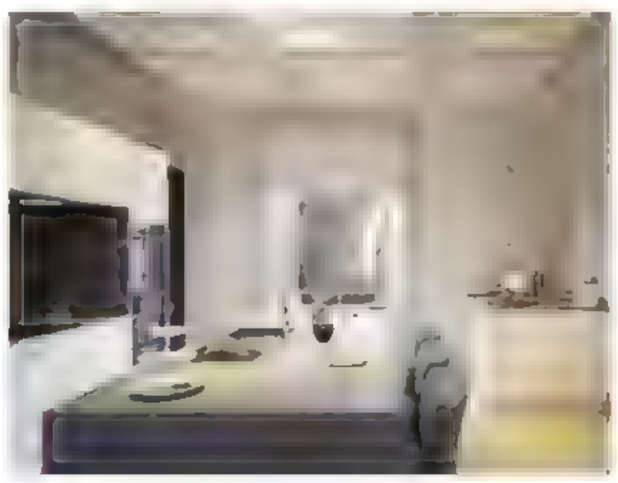
> "rare opportunity to own a turn-key home, situated in a discreet and quiet position"
>
> Leo Russell

Every inch of the apartment has been fitted and designed with the best quality in mind and the attention to detail makes for an exquisite home. A large master bedroom suite is followed by two further good sized bedrooms and bathrooms.

For sale £4,250,000

Joint Sole Agents – Savills

RUSSELL SIMPSON
020 7225 0277
www.russellsimpson.co.uk



Harley Gardens

CHELSEA SW10

RS Harley Gardens is set within the highly desirable Boltons Conservation Area – one of the most historic parts of Chelsea. The Boltons was built, along with St. Mary's Church, during the 1840s, which was soon followed by the terrace of houses at Harley Gardens starting in 1851.

These magnificently wide, semi-detached houses with off street parking and front gardens, still to this day carry an air of elegance with the beautifully grand rooms and fine Victorian period features throughout. Harley Gardens is a quiet and secluded enclave moments from the Fulham Road where there is a multitude of buzzing cafés, restaurants, shops and bars.

> "magnificently proportioned semi-detached family house"
>
> Lara Askew

The current family have enjoyed the house for the past ten years taking advantage of a large rear garden, fantastic raised ground floor drawing room and five bedrooms. Combining the grandeur of a large Victorian house with the modern way of living, this home enables you to live in an open plan manner on the garden level with a kitchen, dining room and conservatory leading directly to the fabulously tropical garden.

This house is sold with the added benefit of planning permission granted to extend via a basement level increasing the size of the house by over 1,000 square feet, approximately 30% growth in size should an incoming family feel the necessity for more room at a later stage.

For sale, asking a price of £9,700,000

RUSSELL SIMPSON

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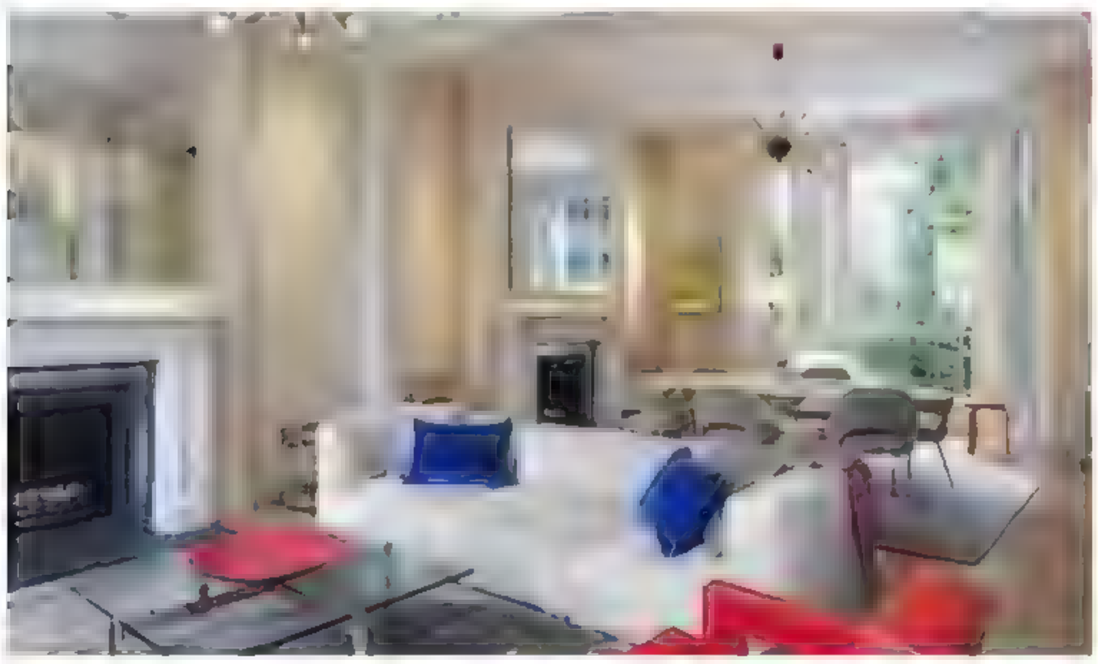
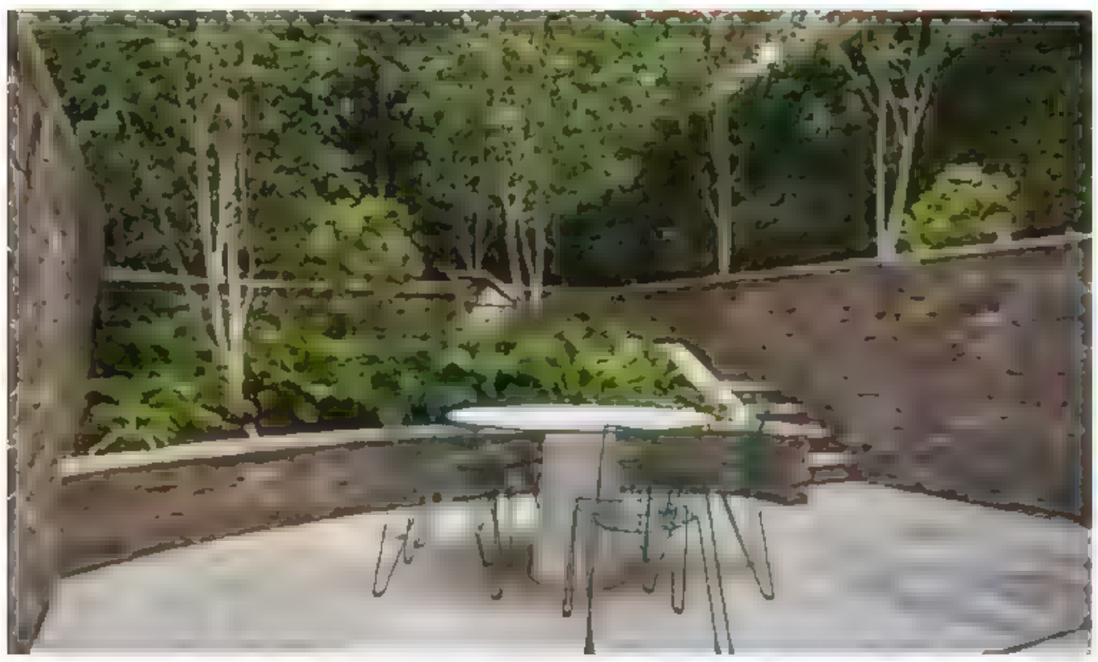
www.russellsimpson.co.uk





CECIL WRIGHT

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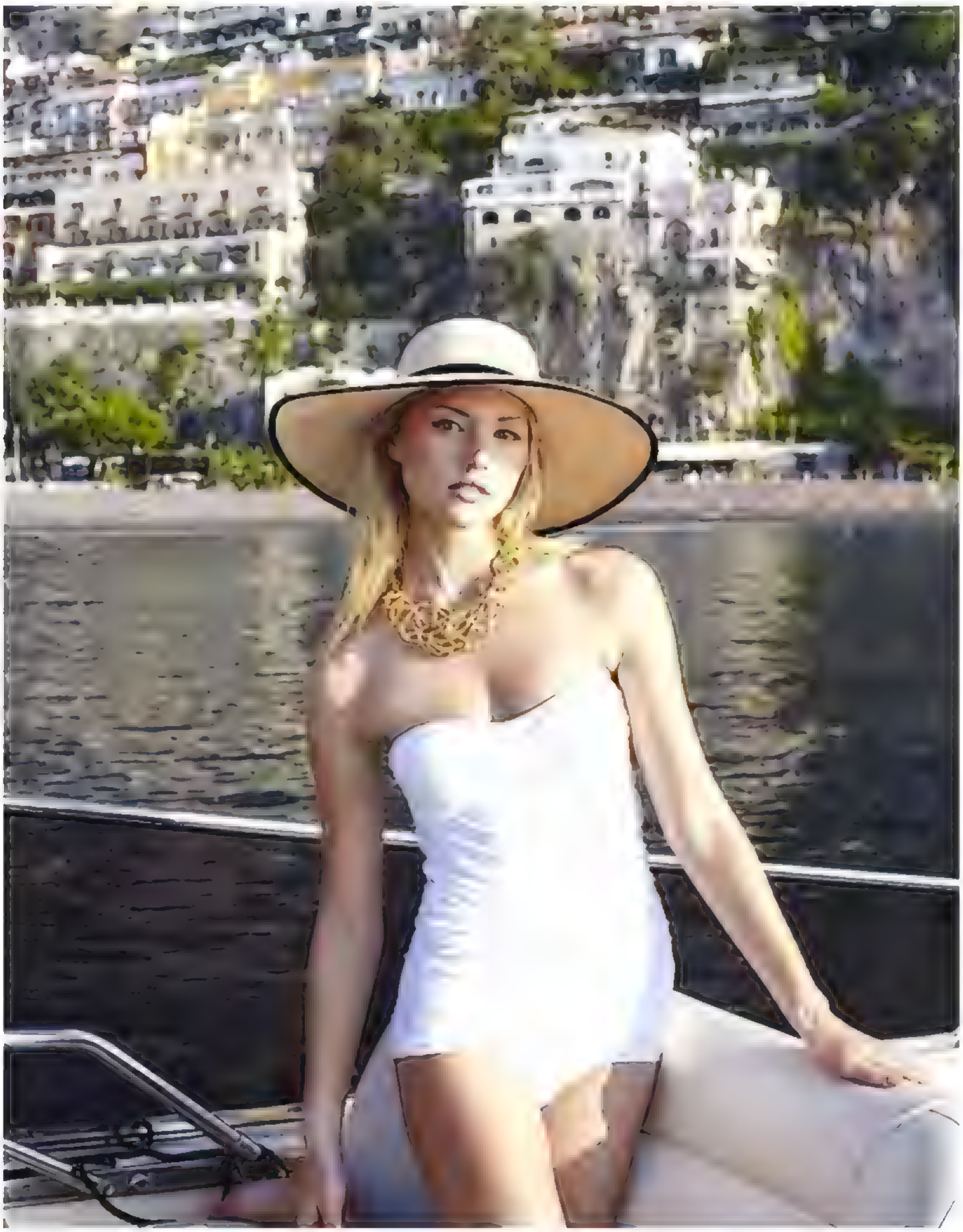

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paul@beauchamp.com
+44 (0)20 7022 9831

STRUTT & PARKER

Simon Fernandes
simon.fernandes@struttandparker.com
+44 (0) 20 7318 4677

OCEANIC HOUSE

A COLLECTION OF SEVEN LUXURY RESIDENCES LOCATED IN ST JAMES'S, LONDON

[redacted] apartments

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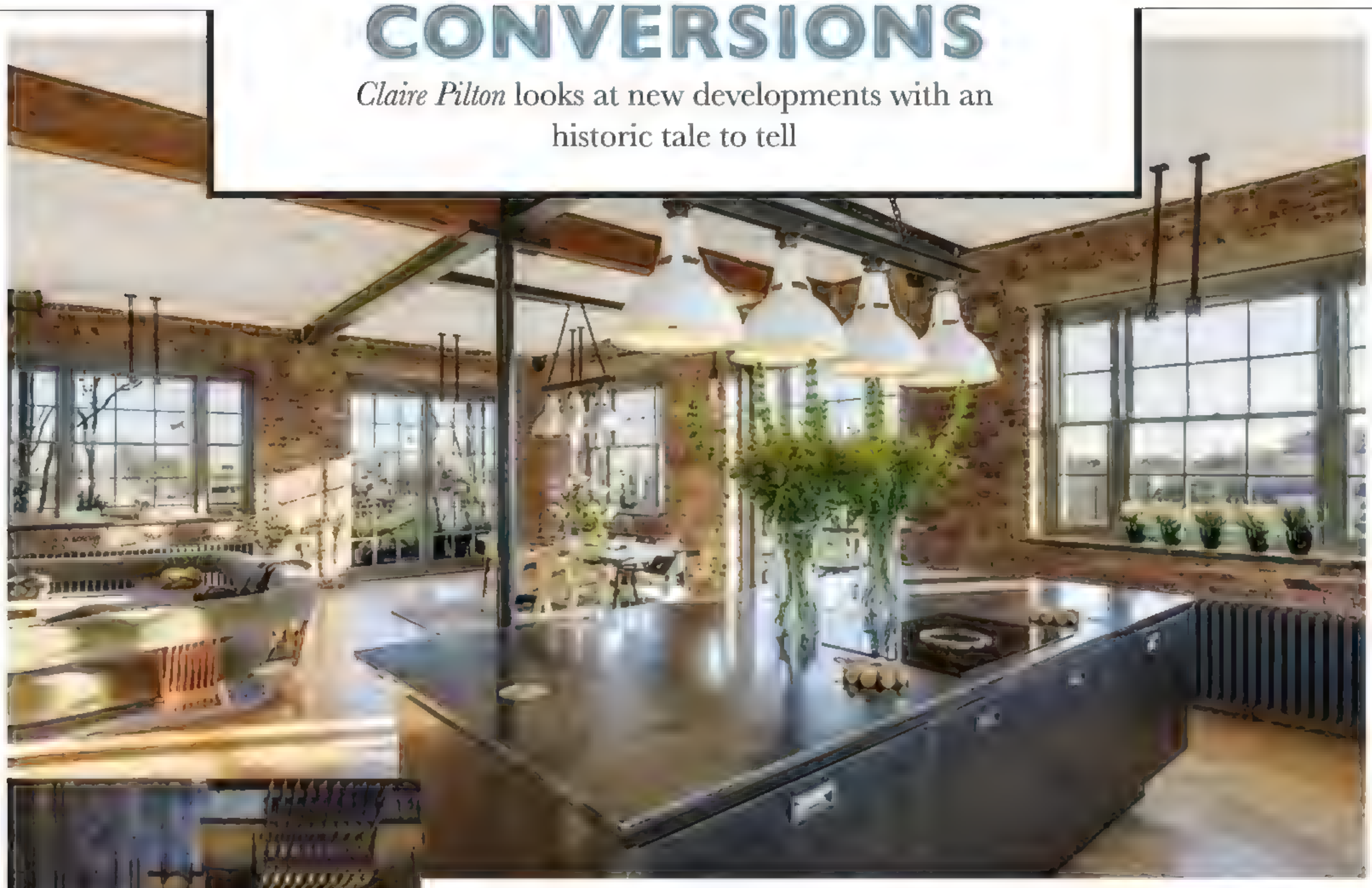
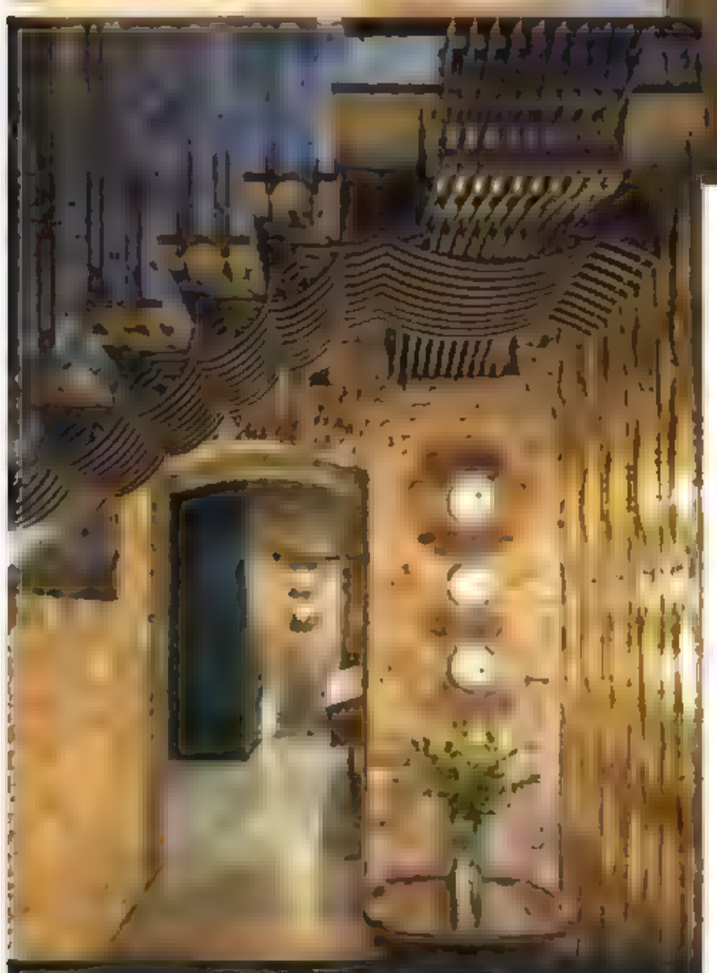
BRITAIN | PROPERTY

CAPITAL CONVERSIONS

Claire Pilton looks at new developments with an historic tale to tell





CHAPPELL LOFTS

With Beethoven and Strauss among its clients, the former Chappell Piano Factory on Belmont Street, Camden has been converted into nine massive, £3.25 million-plus, loft-style apartments. Dramatic interior architecture is teamed with fabulous facilities including a pool, gym and club lounge with a cinema screen, cocktail bar and DJ booth. Singsongs around the old Joanna take on a new meaning.

Aston Chase: 020 7724 4724
Savills: 020 3428 2900

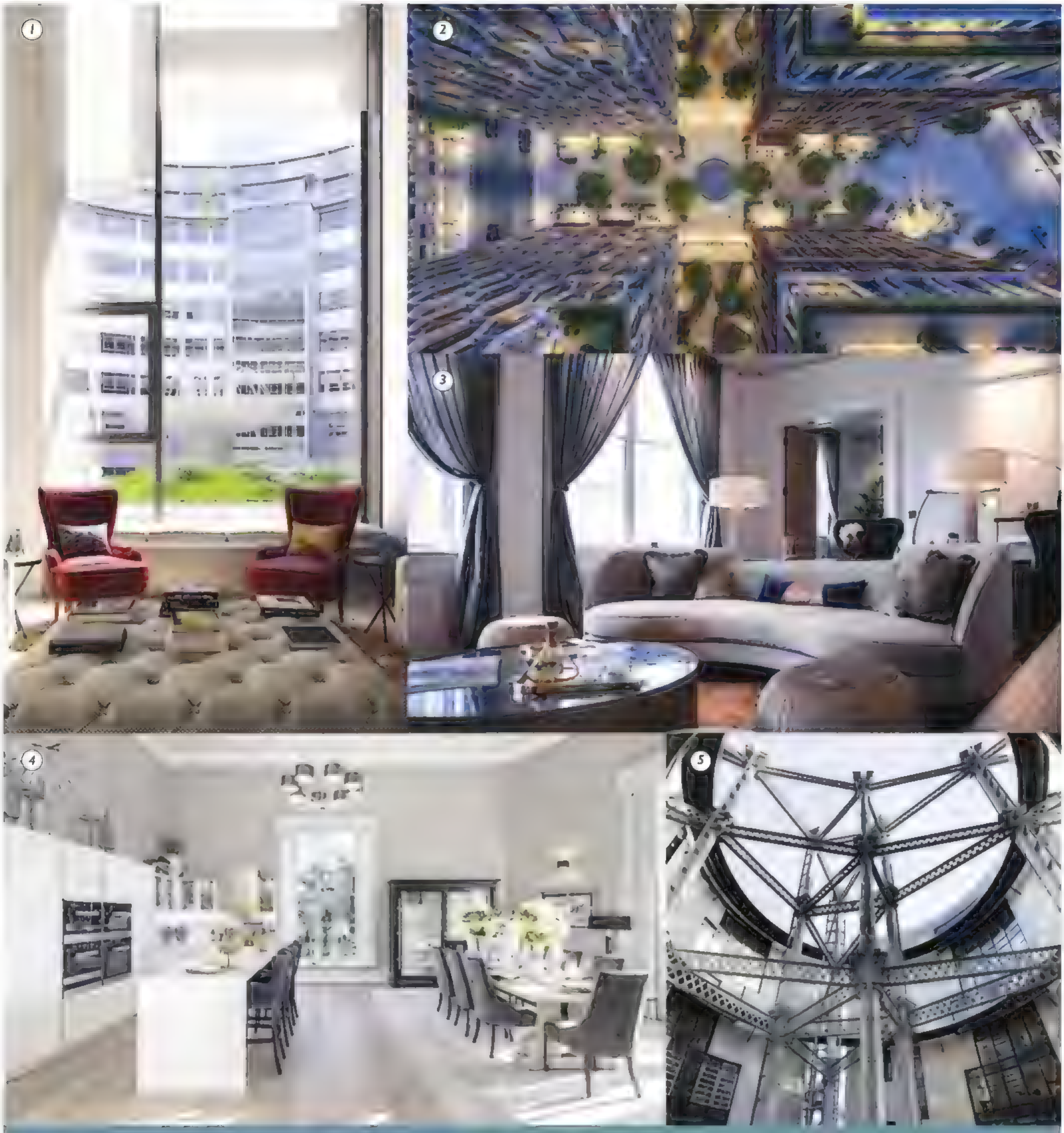
Globally recognised and Grade II* listed, Battersea Power Station is the most iconic industrial building in Britain to assume residential status. The Power Station, which is central to a new 42-acre, 4,000-home neighbourhood, will house 253 apartments; with over 90% purchased off plan six years prior to the building's completion in 2020, prices now start from £2.75 million. Residents will move in as the rest of the Power Station opens up to a huge choice of shops, restaurants, cafes, a 2,000-seater events space and Apple's new UK campus.

Upstream at Chelsea Waterfront, Lots Road Power Station will also house a mix of flats, retail and restaurants. Prior to its anticipated 2020 launch, the first of this 11.3-acre development's two towers, designed by Sir Terry Farrell and rising 37 storeys, will launch later this month.

Continue upstream past the Hurlingham Club, and on Stevenage Road, SW6, alongside the bank of the Thames, a former industrial site turned medical centre is now home to a classy new Octagon development. Enjoying access to the river footpath between Putney and Hammersmith Bridges, and a stroll from The River Café, Bishops Row is a terrace of nine grandly proportioned £4.995 million-plus townhouses.

If arty loft conversions are more to your taste, super-cool Camden has two notable new schemes; Chappell Lofts (above) and Arlington Lofts. The latter 'heritage conversion' by Fabrica has transformed the Thirties electricity substation on Arlington Road, NW1, into 16 loft-style apartments, each with a terrace, priced from £699,950. A show flat by Honky demonstrates the scheme's high ceilinged, warehouse feel.

Marylebone's Michelin-starred eateries, art galleries and boutiques bear witness to its relatively recent rise to residential stardom. Here, insurance tycoon Peter Wood is waving his property firm W-One International's wand at BBC Radio's former London HQ. Behind its Thirties façade, The W1 London will offer 19 apartments from £4.1 million, together with five four-bedroom townhouses from £11.5 million.



1. TELEVISION CENTRE
Spring sees the former BBC HQ in White City celebrating its grand opening as residents move in and Soho House, Electric Cinema and Bluebird Cafe open their doors. Twenty-two new 'premium' apartments start from £3 million; they include a penthouse designed by Bella Freud that looks beyond the Helios statue to the London skyline.
020 8811 8720

2. BROADWAY
Purchased for £370 million in 2014, Westminster's late New Scotland Yard has disappeared to make way for the 19-storey scheme of 268 apartments; due for completion Q4 2021, they start from £1.56 million. The 14- to 19-storey towers will put Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament within residents' gaze.
020 7349 8000

3. OCEANIC HOUSE
A wave away from Nelson's Column, the White Star Line's HQ has been transformed into a £100 million, nine-themed scheme. The grandest entrance foyer, once a booking office for Titanic's first-class passengers, sets the scene for 54 lateral apartments and a £20 million duplex penthouse.
Beauchamp Estates 020 7495 7722 and Strutt & Parker 020 7318 4677

4. ANCASTER GATE
Designed by Robert Adam in 1773 as a weekend retreat for the 3rd Duke of Ancaster, this Grade I listed Georgian mansion has now been restored and divided into three handsome homes, with four to six bedrooms and £4.45 million to £7.75 million price tags, they have unrivalled views over the 2,500-acre 'back garden' of Richmond Park.
London Square 0333 666 4141

5. GASHOLDERS
At King's Cross, prices start from £810,000 for the only apartments in the world to be built within a conjoined triplet of Victorian Grade II gasholder frames. Central atriums, reminiscent of New York's Guggenheim Museum, bring light to the structures' core, while an interactive installation by Tobias Rehberger illuminates the entrance lobby.
0333 077 0200

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Argentum Property provides a personal, tailored approach to the high-end property market in London and the Southern Iberian hotspots of Lisbon and Marbella

The launch of the boutique Mayfair-based property service Argentum Property, the joint enterprise of Sophie Panizzo and Luis Diez de Oñate, happened organically. Sophie had been working in London's prime central market for 15 years, predominantly at Sotheby's, whose Chelsea office she set up. Luis, from Sotogrande in Spain, is a solicitor who had been working for 15 years at a boutique London firm. Having been introducing clients to each other, they joined forces to set up Argentum in 2016.

Argentum specialises in the acquisition and sale of high-end properties in central London and southern Spain and Portugal. Its signature is its personal, tailored approach: clients buying or selling a property work directly with Sophie and Luis to find the perfect match in terms of their needs and ambitions.

Currently in Argentum's portfolio are villas on the stunning grounds of Finca Cortesin, an award-winning hotel, golf resort and spa ideally situated on the coast between Sotogrande and Marbella. The impressive villas are set in the golf course, offering plenty of privacy and space, but with all the amenities of the hotel at their doorstep. Finca Cortesin boasts a world-class spa and gym, four swimming pools, an 18-hole world-championship-hosting golf course, padel and tennis courts, plus five restaurants, including Michelin-starred Kabuki Raw, and a Beach Club. The vision of seven renowned architects, the elegant residences are designed in three architectural styles – Classical Spanish, Colonial and Modern Contemporary – with prices starting at €4 million.

Also on Argentum's roster are exclusive properties by Stone Capital in Lisbon and nearby Comporta, Portugal's coastal hotspot known as 'the future Hamptons of Europe'. Still a well-kept secret, Comporta offers bare-foot luxury in the region's preserved, breathtaking landscape. The Comporta Retreat estate includes 28 plots of land, ranging from 2,000 to 5,500 square metres.

Coming from a corporate background, brothers Arthur and Geoffroy set up Stone Capital in 2002 when they moved to Lisbon and fell in love with the city. They have since become one of the most successful high-end developers in the area, carefully picking premium buildings in Lisbon's best locations.

In the city's vibrant and historic Alfama neighbourhood, Stone Capital has embarked on the gentle refurbishment of iconic Santa Helena which dates back to the 1500s and was formerly the residence of aristocrats. Featuring 20 apartments with one to five bedrooms, the project preserves the characterful history and original features of the building while moving it into the twenty-first century with all the needs of contemporary living. Prices range from €780,000 to €1.5 million and purchasers may be eligible for Portugal's hugely successful golden visa and Non-Habitual Resident tax programme.

For more information on the properties, email sp@argentumproperty.co.uk or call 020 7629 0439 | 33 Bruton Street, W1

BISHOPS ROW

FULHAM

Nine grandly proportioned townhouses with stunning Georgian facades. Octagon's latest London launch incorporates the highest specification and finishes as befitting the developer's name.

Offering views towards the River Thames and Barnes Wetland Centre from private roof terraces and balconies, these unique new homes range between 4,375 - 6,150 sq ft.

With 4/5 bedrooms, an impressive kitchen/breakfast room and 4 formal reception rooms across 5 storeys, the lower ground floor is dedicated to leisure - including a gym, cinema/TV den and a covered courtyard garden. Each property features a private west backing walled garden with rear pedestrian access to the Thames towpath.

Located within the Bishop's Park Conservation Area, Bishops Row is just a short walk from Fulham's vibrant centre, tube stations, bus services, and an excellent choice of local schooling.

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FROGNAL END

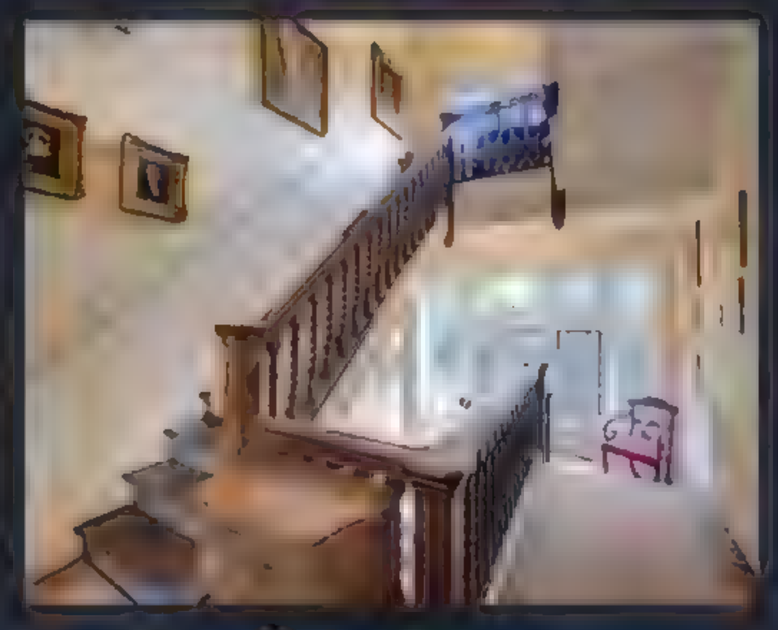
HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE, NW3

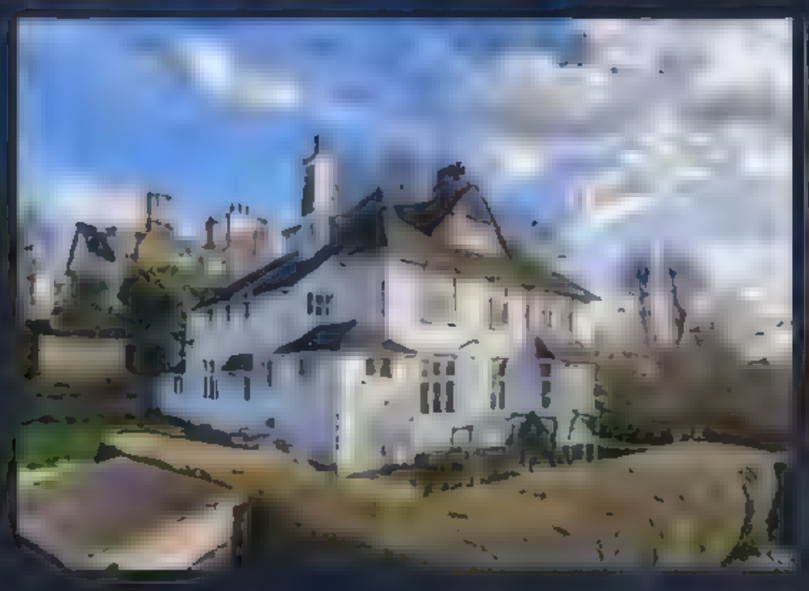
ONE OF THE FINEST VILLAGE HOUSES TO COME TO THE MARKET IN MANY YEARS ON A PLOT APPROACHING HALF AN ACRE

On the market for the first time in over 75 years, 'Frognal End' is a magnificent double-fronted detached, Victorian house, currently arranged as two separate apartments, now in need of modernisation.

Discretely located at the end of a long gated private driveway, the property comprising almost 6000 square feet (556 sq. m.) arranged predominantly over three floors, occupying an elevated site approaching half an acre. The extensive gardens encompass the house on three sides and in addition there is off street parking for numerous vehicles.

The property offers the opportunity for a discerning family to acquire this rare and exquisite home, which could be restored to its original state as a single dwelling, or alternatively, there is the possibility that the existing property could be replaced with a new bespoke home, subject to the usual local authority consents.





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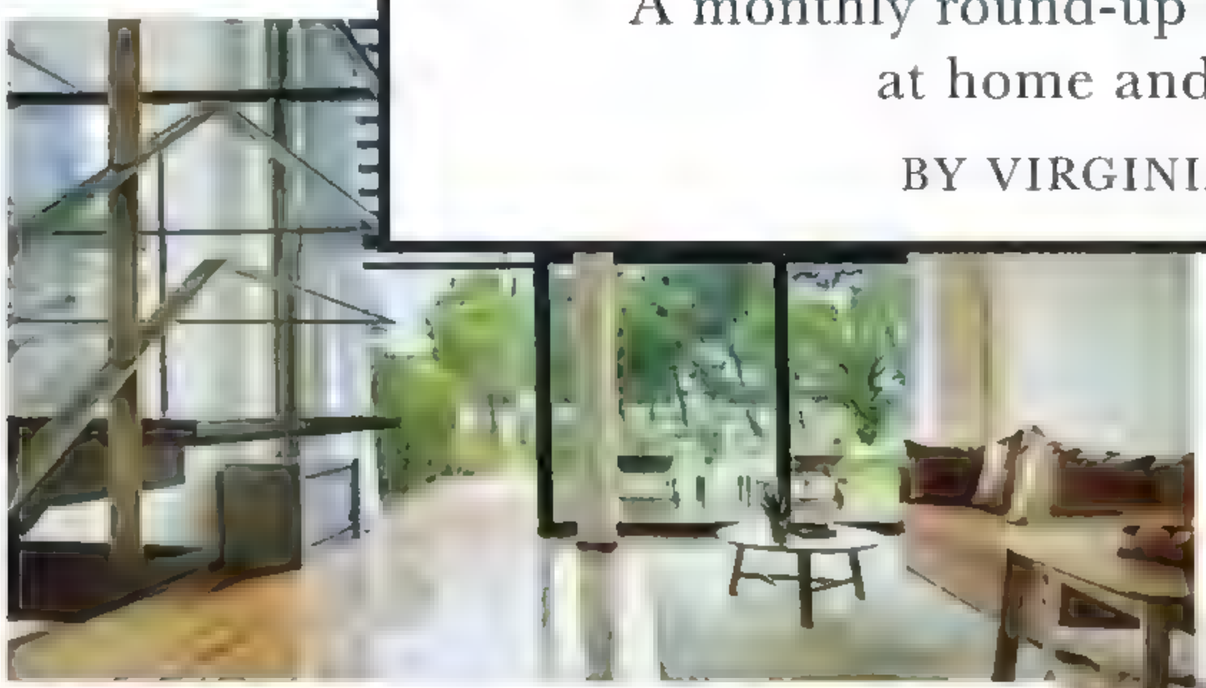
NOTEBOOK

A monthly round-up of property news at home and abroad

BY VIRGINIA PECK

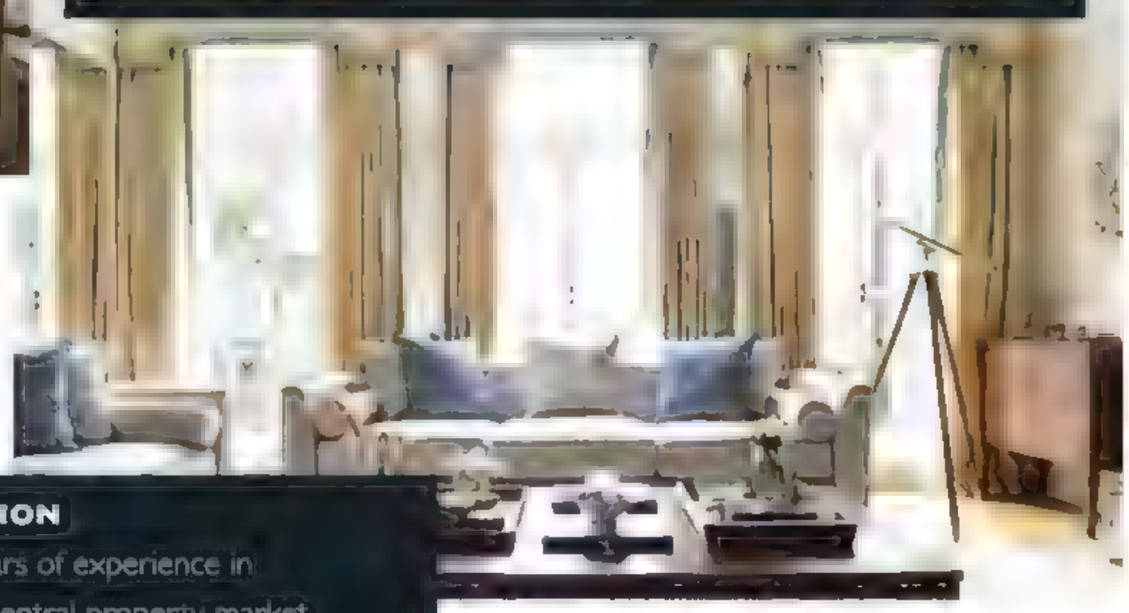


SECRET ESCAPE

Surrounded by white-sand beaches and pine forests, the Tróia Peninsula in Portugal feels more like a secluded private island. It is, however, a 30-minute drive from the country's ornate capital, Lisbon. With up to 100 spacious plots for sale, prospective buyers work closely with Portuguese architects to create a bespoke holiday villa. Residents will also benefit from a helpful concierge, use of the marina, and a car-ferry service to and from the peninsula. *For more information, visit www.troiaresort.pt*

NEW ROMANCE

This stately interior-designed Georgian townhouse, situated just off Grosvenor Square in Mayfair, one of London's most desirable locations, is currently available to let. With six bedrooms, an open-plan kitchen and spacious living and dining rooms, it is ideal for both family living and entertaining. The house has recently been refurbished, but retains many of its charming period features. *For more information, visit www.dexters.co.uk*



EXPERT OPINION

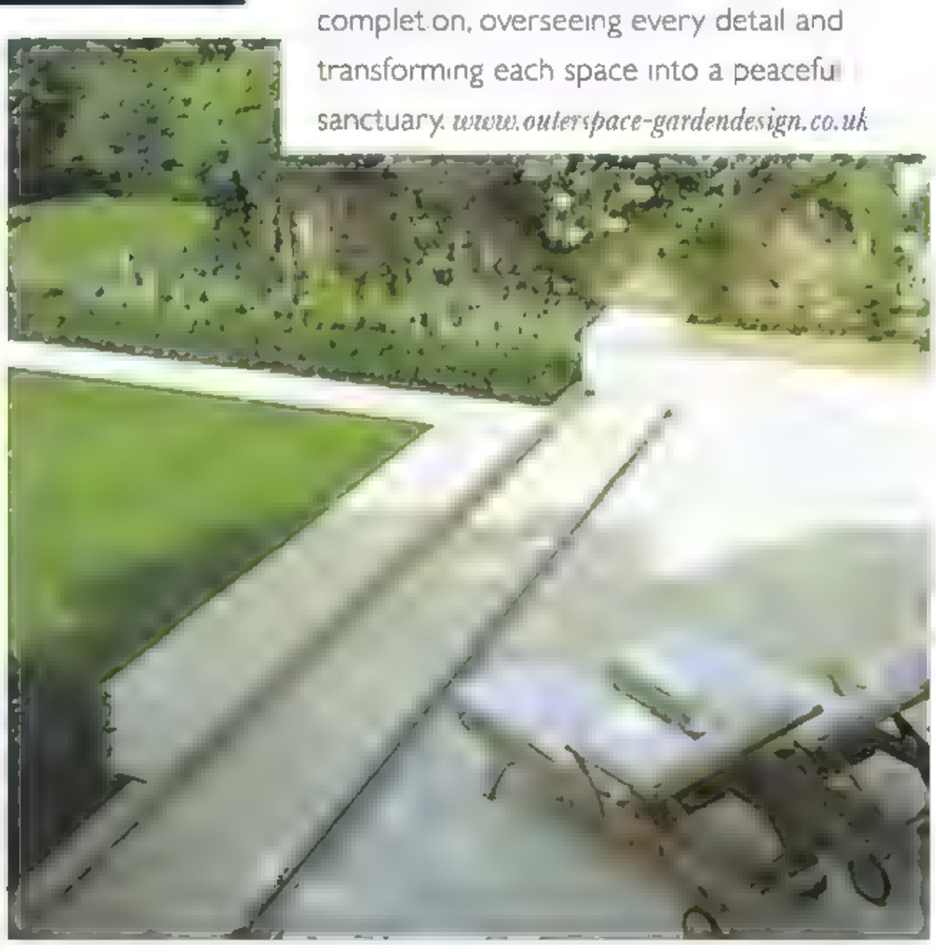
With over 35 years of experience in London's prime central property market, Rupert Hoffen and Neil West have recently joined forces to set up their own property sale and acquisition service, Hoffen West. With their extensive knowledge in lettings, block management and sales, the Belgravia-based duo provide a bespoke search service tailored to suit both international and domestic clients, in property for either investment or private use. *For more information, visit www.hoffenwest.com*

OUTSIDE INFLUENCE

As the ancient Chinese proverb says, 'Life begins the day you start a garden.' Whether yours is a sweeping country lawn or a petite city courtyard, Outer Space Garden Design can offer a complete consultancy service. Based in Wimbledon, founder Donald Ingam provides expert garden-design knowhow and works with clients through to project completion, overseeing every detail and transforming each space into a peaceful sanctuary. *www.outerspace-gardendesign.co.uk*

IN THE DETAIL

With a focus on capturing the vision of its clients, Elicyon creates interiors that are elegant and stylish. The multi-award-winning, Chelsea-based firm has completed a number of impressive projects in coveted addresses across the capital. Well connected and highly attuned to innovative interior-design trends, Elicyon carefully sources collector's pieces, thoughtful works of art or furniture, and playful, decorative lighting to create a luxurious, bespoke interior. *www.elicyon.com; 020 3772 0011*



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Jonathan Heaf Is...

Out to lunch!

This month with **Yanis Varoufakis**

The rebel former finance chief is back in the saddle at London's Greek power diner

If you want to get a Greek man or woman to smash a few plates, all you need do is mention Yanis Varoufakis. On the odd occasion I mentioned I was meeting the famed Greek former minister of finance, it resulted in such a response (from his fellow countrymen and women) that I wondered why I hadn't brought him up before. He's the new Elgin Marbles in that respect – a sticky subject you just don't bring up with Greeks if all you're after is polite dinner chit-chat.

"He's a brilliant academic," I was told in conspiratorial, hushed tones. "A savvy economist, of course, but he parades around as if he's the earnest rebel. He is as interested in power and control as much as the politicians he appears to despise." How wonderfully provocative. A megalomaniacal maths teacher? And all I was going to ask him about was the best way to fill out one's tax return.

We meet – where else? – in a posh Greek restaurant on London's Regent Street. Milos is not your upmarket, family-friendly Greek taverna. Greek food in Britain, for this writer at least, is all about over-polished heavy wooden tables crammed full of meze: hundreds of small plates (warm and cold but never, ever actually hot) of houmous, baba ganoush, tashi, dolma, falafel, tarama, tzatziki... the list is always endless and always exactly the same. Meze is essentially baby food for grown-ups.

Milos, however, has a different gear. This is for the fat cats of St James's, men who have been told to cut down on red meat and Merlot but still want the off-the-peg, blue-suit posturing of a proper power lunch venue. The interior – marble counters, floor-to-ceiling curtains and starched tablecloths – looks like it's been prepped for a Puff Daddy music video.

The restaurant is neither gross nor trendy – somewhere between Nikki Beach and an Ian Schrager hotel lobby, minimalism as imagined by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen. As I take my corner seat I notice a distinct lack of paprika-dusted houmous on the surrounding tables. I take this as a sign and order the internationally recognised fussy eater's safe word, salmon, which, I'm told, is "sustainable" and from the

'I was no Obama fan. Trump is 100 per cent the result of his failures'

"Faroe Islands". I can't help but feel AA Gill would have had a field day in here.

Nevertheless, Varoufakis is robust company. He's currently doing press for a book, *Talking To My Daughter About The Economy* (*Vintage, £14.99*), which is perfect reading for someone such as myself who knows as much about global economics as a teenager who thinks the best use of a calculator is to punch in "5318008" then flip it to spell a rude word.

One gets the impression Varoufakis thinks of himself as a gallant outsider, a man delivering the red pill of truth in a world full of collusion and corruption. "I always had an urge to warn the public about the economists' ideas about the economy," he chuckles over a too salty Greek salad. "Those in power will always fine-tune their economics to suit their own agenda." His views on Brexit are just as forthright. "Brexit is like watching a train crash in slow motion. We can't win these negotiations; they must be stopped. Mrs May can only come out of this one way: filing an application for a Norway-style agreement for a period of at least five years after the two-year Article 50 process. This gives certainty to businesses and citizens. But whatever happens, Brexit does not mean Armageddon. It will make Britain poorer and more inward-looking and probably boring. Still, you never know what will happen in the snake pit of the Tory party."

It is clear Varoufakis' loyalties lie with Labour and in particular with Jeremy Corbyn, whose wife, it turns out, he was out with the night before. Can he see Corbyn as prime minister, *really*? "There is an air of inevitability about it. I would like to see it very much. He doesn't have a hidden agenda; he actually believes what he says, very unusual for a modern professional politician. I hated Blair and I was no Obama fan. Obama used his vote against the Iraq War early on in his career to cloak all the other wars he would wage throughout his presidency. Not only that but Trump is 100 per cent the result of Obama's failures."

During the turmoil of Greece's financial crisis much was made of Varoufakis' renegade style when he would turn up to meetings in his leather jacket: Harrison Ford with an abacus. I put it to Varoufakis that some saw this as a bit pretentious. "That jacket is at my hotel today. I should have worn it. At that time, I had precisely eleven days to save the state. When I became finance minister I told them to sell the official cars, expensive ones, that took me to and from home. Speed was of the essence. I rode a motorbike to work and my leather jacket was part of this. It wasn't to look provocative. So I was labelled a narcissist. What can you do? Wear an Armani suit?"

A suit would have been more at home here in Milos, that's for sure. It's hard not to be charmed by Varoufakis and one is inclined to think the political and economic world would be better off if more people had his clear, intelligent defiance. "I am proud of what we achieved," he says when I ask him to look back on those inconceivable eleven days in 2015. "I would never want to live through it again, but I don't regret it for a second." **GQ**

MILOS, 1 REGENT STREET, LONDON SW1.
020 7839 2080. *MILOS.CA*

VERDICT Hestia ★★☆☆☆ Plutus ★★★★☆ Hercules ★★★☆☆ Eris ★★☆☆☆ Bacchus ☆☆☆☆☆ **Overall** ★★★☆☆

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